



## LAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

### September Minutes 21st September 2016

**Present:** Cllr Miranda Dart, (Vice-Chairman), Cllr, Jackie Breeds, Cllr Chris Mortimer, Cllr Alex Carey, Cllr Genesis Alexander and Cllr Nick Bennett,

One member of the public present.

**1. Apologies for absence** – Cllr Mike Cook and Cllr Barby Dashwood- Morris Received

**2. Declaration of Members interest** – None

**3. To accept the minutes from Laughton Parish Council meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2016 and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016 extraordinary minutes.** They were agreed a true record

**4. Questions and statements from members of the public, relating to matters on the agenda** – Cllr Dart proposed item 12 correspondence be brought forward after item 6 due to interest from the member of the public. All members **Agreed** this proposal.

**5. East Sussex County Council and Wealden District council reports-** Cllr Bennett reported that the ESCC budget setting is in the early stages. A report will be given in October in regards to the schools and pre schools as the preliminary indications are the exam results are looking promising. The Boundary Commission report will also be produced in late October.

Cllr Nick Bennett left the meeting

**6. Election of Chairman** – Due to no candidates wishing to take on the role at present the election will carry on to next month's agenda.

Standing Orders were then suspended to allow Mr Herdman (representing Laughton Primary School) to speak.

### **12. Correspondence (part) -**

Mr Herdman, caretaker to Laughton Primary School, explained the school had been given a grant of over £2000 for an outside table tennis table and three fixed outside musical instruments. This is to help encourage physical activity amongst children and fight obesity. Photographs and an explanation took place to ask the Council to approve positioning of the equipment. Several positions were offered, which were indicated on a boundary map. Cllr Dart expressed if the equipment would be on Parish Council land there could be insurance, maintenance and liability issues for the Council. Cllr Carey explained the Parish Council have recently paid to have remedial work carried out on the

playground which was a considerable amount. There were also concerns that the rural beauty of Pelham Field was being eroded due to the broad variety of play paraphernalia being allowed on the land. The Parish Council **Agreed** it will discuss the proposal and decide on the most appropriate location for this equipment.

Standing Orders were reinstated and Agenda order was resumed. Mr Herdman left the meeting

## 7. Plans

### a) Plans-

**WD/2016/2032/F – 1 Pound Lane, Laughton, BN8 6BE** – Proposed single storey side extension and extension of existing decking over 600mm high.

**Comments and observations:** *Laughton Parish Council recommend approval, with a recommendation that the extension brickwork matches that of the host property - so that the two blend more favourably.*

**WD/2016/2101/F – Woodside Farm, Broomham Lane, Whitesmith, NR Lewes, BN8 6JQ** – Demolition of current residential with replacement dwelling.

### **Comments and observations:**

*Laughton Parish Council recommended refusal of this application for the following reasons:*

*The members of the council are extremely alarmed at the amount of woodland removal that has taken place prior to the application. Recent maps show this area covered in woodland and no lake. The difference is substantial and the council are unaware of any licences being obtained to carry out this work.*

*No justifiable reason has been given to relocate the property. Indeed had the location proposed still been wooded it would be unacceptable.*

*The proposed location is an unjustified incursion of development into an area of the Low Weald character landscape. The proposed development is not a reuse of redundant buildings and so cannot be sustainable, nor will it preserve and protect the adjacent historic landscape and ancient woodland.*

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

**None**

c) Planning application refused, approved, referred, withdrawn or appeals. **None**

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

**WD/2016/0599/F & WD/2016/0600/LB – Church Cottage, Church Lane, Laughton BN8 6AH**- Rear single storey extension to existing residential dwelling; works includes internal and external alterations. **Approved**

**WD/2016/0821/F – Rainbow House, Dickenson Field, Church lane, Laughton, BN8 6AH** – Demolition of existing timber frame holiday accommodation. New two- bedroom holiday accommodation as single storey timber frame. New car port/games area with secure store.

**Approved**

**e) Other planning matters – To discuss or note any other planning matters brought to the attention of the Parish council.** – A concern was brought to the attention of the Council in regards to a large static mobile home at Lower Vert Farm, the Clerk will write to Wealden district council asking if they are aware of the situation and if they have a temporary licence.

Also a mobile home on Parkside Farm industrial unit, Shortgate lane, seems to be permanent. The clerk will write to Wealden district council to enquire.

**8. Dog Waste issue Pound Lane** – Cllr Dart produced a map of the existing position of the dog bin by Pelham field and the proposed new position at Pound Lane. All members discussed information given and **Agreed** with new position proposed. The clerk will email the Wealden district council who will alter the position of the bin free of charge.

**9. Play area** – Cllr Carey informed the work has been completed on the play grounds and is extremely happy with improvements.

**10. Financial matters** – A schedule of receipts and payments was presented at the meeting. It was all **Agreed** and signed.

**11. Clerks contract to be signed and agreed and overtime agreed.** Cllr Mortimer discussed the agreements and questions asked at the previous meeting by the Clerk. These were discussed by the Employment Committee over email and explained to all members. The clerk and members **Agreed** with hours, holiday and expenses which were covered in the letter. The Employment Committee discussed a flexibility was needed by the Clerk however guidance from the Clerk of hours and times to be accessible would be beneficial. The regular hours will be discussed again when the back log has been completed. The Parish council also **Agreed** the overtime covered by the clerk due to the back log and audit report. The Clerk and Cllr Dart signed the contract.

**12. Correspondence – (continued)** – Cllr Carey read an email received after the agenda was published from the Roebuck Pub requesting Parish Council support for their grant application to Pub is the Hub for theatre equipment. Cllr Alexander was in favour for this proposal as it helps and benefits the community. The Parish Council **Agreed** this is an important matter and the Clerk is to investigate if the Parish Council can respond before the next meeting.

There was also an email from East Sussex County Council in regards to permanent seasonal closures of byways open to all traffic. The clerk will ask for an extension so it can be discussed at the next meeting and placed on the agenda if the Parish Council cannot respond before the next meeting. All **Agreed** with proposal.

**13. Town/Parish council survey** – Cllr Carey proposed Mark Buttifant should be approached to help complete the survey on behalf of the Council. The questions are relevant to the sports equipment and he has the most recent and useful knowledge. This was **Agreed** by all Councillors.

**14. Public access Defibrillator** – A discussion took place whether it would be suitable for Laughton to obtain a Public access defibrillator. Cllr Alexander expressed he felt if it saved one life it would be beneficial to the community. He will investigate into the cost and interest of parishioner and report the findings at the next meeting.

**15. Power on Laughton Village Green** – Cllr Mortimer told the meeting he has so far looked into five grants for which this project might be eligible. Of these, two may be promising but need further investigation. At present there has been no feedback from parishioners on this subject. Cllr Mortimer will report back at next meeting.

**16. Outstanding Matters** – Members noted the following items remain outstanding:

- a) Review of standing orders and financial regulations
- b) Review of Parish Council Risk assessment
- c) To carry out requirements from internal audit

These will be addressed by the new clerk, matters are being dealt with and they are an ongoing process. This was reported by the clerk.

**17. Reports (by leave) not for decision** – Cllr Mortimer asked Mark Buttifant to report back on the Christmas festivities. He is awaiting a response and will report back at next meeting.

Cllr Breed expressed a concern regarding the traveller's site planning appeal decision; there have been no reports of the outcome. Cllr Carey informed he had enquired, but was told by Wealden there is currently a back log of three months.

Discussion took place regarding a caravan sited at Lower Vert Wood Farm- where building works are being undertaken- and whether permission had been obtained. Councillors resolved to observe the situation and report back should the caravan become a permanent fixture.

Meeting closed 21:20