



## LAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL



### Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 7.00pm.

Present: (Chairman) Cllr Dart, Cllr Weller (Vice Chair), Cllr Breeds Cllr Cook, Cllr Crozier, Cllr Hallam Cllr Poore and Cllr Bennett (ESCC)

**Cllr Hallam entered the meeting at 19.25pm**

2 Members of the public present

#### **1. PUBLIC SESSION**

*The applicant requested to discuss planning application WD/2019/1702/F*

*A member of the public spoke in support of agenda item 9.6*

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

*Apologies were received from Cllr Watts (WDC)*

#### **3. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

*Cllr Dart declared a personal interest in planning application WD/2019/1702/F as she owns the neighbouring field.*

#### **4. TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE LAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 17<sup>th</sup> JULY 2019.**

*The minutes were agreed and signed accordingly*

#### **5. EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS**

**WDC – No report**

**ESCC report after agenda item 6**

#### **6. PLANNING,**

##### **a) Plans**

**WD/2019/1702/F - PROSPECT FARM, BRICKHURST LANE, LAUGHTON, BN8 6DD**  
Description: CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TRACTOR AND MACHINERY SHED

*Standing Orders were suspended and the applicant discussed his planning application and members asked related questions. The committee members approved with following comment:*

*Laughton Parish Council recommend approval of this application and agree the size and appearance are in keeping with the locality.*

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

**WD/2019/1878/LDE – Oakdene, Park Lane, Laughton, BN8 6BP – Change of use of Land to residential Garden.**

*The Parish Council agreed they had no further comments or information to contribute.*

##### **c) Planning applications refused, approved, referred, withdrawn or appeals**

**Cllr Bennett entered the meeting at 19.22pm**

**(Only additional planning applications not included on the agenda are reported here. Please see the Wealden District Council website for parish comments.)**

**WD/2018/2618/F – A NEW RESIDENTIAL BUILD SINGLE DWELLING HOUSE WHICH INCLUDES A CHANGE OF USE FROM AGRICULTURAL GRASSLAND TO RESIDENTIAL. LAND OPPOSITE HOLLY COTTAGE, LEWES ROAD, LAUGHTON, BN8 6BL – REFUSED**

**WD/2019/0360/MAJ – RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR THE EXTENSION OF AN ACCESS TRACK AND THE INFILLING AND RE-GRADING OF LOW -LYING AGRICULTURAL LAND IN ORDER TO BRING IT BACK INTO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION - MILLWARDS FARM, LEWES ROAD, LAUGHTON, BN8 6BN – APPROVED**

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

**WD/2018/2618/F - Land opposite Holly Cottage, Lewes Road, Laughton, BN8 6BL. A new residential build single dwelling house which includes a change of use from agricultural grassland to residential.**

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

1) Traffic and highway issues.

We have grave doubts about road safety given poor visibility and it is not known what the speed of the traffic is at this point on the B2124 in either direction. The access has poor visibility to the North West because of the bend in the road and poor visibility to the south east because the incline of the road.

There is no safe pedestrian crossing point in the vicinity. It is unlikely anyone would walk to the crossing point at the Church Lane/Shortgate Lane junction in order to access the shop and pub. There is no footpath on the south side of the road in the vicinity of the proposed dwelling.

2) The dwelling

The dwelling is outside of the draft “core area” for Laughton and the dwelling is too large to be acceptable according to the Draft Local Plan.

No exceptional reason has been provided to justify building a dwelling in this location or a change of use from garden to residential.

The dwelling will appear isolated adjacent to a very busy roadside. It is difficult to believe it will be a pleasant place to live.

The applicant states the dwelling will have an urbanising impact on grade 2 listed Holly Cottage. This is not consistent with the requirement for development to preserve and enhance the setting of listed buildings. Furthermore, there is no narrative explaining how its considerable size and design relate to and improve upon the setting of Holly Cottage.

The proposed dwelling’s west elevations and boundary treatment will adversely impact the important natural and rural setting of the village green which abuts the boundary.

3) Impact on Laughton

Should the dwelling be approved the Parish Council demand that it counts towards Laughton’s settlement allowance.

**WD/2019/1687/F - LULHAM COTTAGE, DARP LANE, RIPE, BN8 6BB Description: CONVERSION OF GARAGE TO FORM ANNEXE AND DORMER ROOF EXTENSIONS**

**CLlr Hallam entered the meeting at 19.25pm**

*These planning applications were ratified. Please see Parish comments on the agenda or by visiting Wealden District Council Website*

**e) Other planning matters- To discuss or note any other planning matters brought to the attention of the Parish Council.**

- **Chelwood Pound Lane** – *The members noted the response from Wealden’s Planning department. These planning applications will be monitored due to the enforcements and timescale.*

**Standing orders suspended for agenda item 5 ESCC Report**

*Cllr Bennett reported to members the budget process has begun and in early stages. At the moment consideration is being given to renewable energy for ESCC buildings and the possibility stretching to schools, this is also in the early stages. Environmental agency strategy is nearly completed and should be published shortly.*

*Cllr Hallam asked Cllr Bennett if he could investigate ESCC response in regards to the Pelham field alteration of deeds cost.*

### **Standing orders resumed**

### **Cllr Bennett left the meeting**

#### **7. FINANCIAL MATTERS- Authorisation of payment of Accounts – to approve accounts for payment – (a Schedule of Receipts & Payments will be presented at meeting) – List of payments on separate sheet**

- **September Payments** - Payments agreed and signed accordingly
- **Review budget and make any recommendations** -Members discussed the budget and recommended areas that may need maintenance or repairs in the future. The Clerk answered any related questions and will include these items in the November budget meeting. The Clerk will investigate looking at possible playground grants for this meeting to be considered. Cllr Crozier will advertise too parishioners grants are available and how to apply, in the October Parish Magazine. All members approved the budget to date.

#### **8. TO ADOPT THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE AS FOUND IN THE LOCALISM Act 2011 – All members agreed to adopt the Power of Competence.**

#### **9. ITEMS FOR DECISION AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES**

##### **9.1 - Village Maintenance – Cllr Dart reported the fingerpost at Mill Lane is in need of repair. Cllr Poore will investigate.**

*The Clerk reported the bin lids quotes are still outstanding and is chasing the supplier.*

*The Clerk projected pictures and possible costs of bins to all members. Members agreed for the Clerk to obtain prices for removing the old bins and installing new bins. Also, members agreed to look at possible variations of colours of the bins. A report of costs and variations to be given at the next meeting.*

##### **9.2– Playground maintenance – Members reported the gates at the playground need replacing. The clerk will obtain three quotes and report back ay the next meeting. The new scramble net has been installed.**

##### **9.3 – Pelham Field – Members discussed whether a meeting is required with the school in regards to the Pelham field fencing and access arrangements. Members agreed the school is chasing ESCC and no further action is required at this time.**

##### **9.4 – Tree Warden/Vert Woods – Members resolved the Clerk drafts a policy regarding representatives acting as outside bodies. In addition, Cllr Crozier will draft a statement and circulate to all members for agreement.**

##### **9.5 – Speed issues on the B2124 – Members discussed the circulated emails from parishioners regarding the speed issues around Laughton. The Clerk will create a report of all correspondence and speed related issues to be presented to the ESCC representative before and at the meeting. Cllr Hallam will also collect evidence from the school. The members agreed the aim of the Parish Council is to make parishioners feel safe in Laughton.**

##### **9.6 – Christmas Festivities – Members agreed a Christmas festivity working party would be set up and Cllr Dart will be a member. The cost of the Christmas tree and lights were discussed. All members resolved to agree funding for the tree and lights up to £400.00. To expand the festivities members agreed decorations to be placed on the tree. Cllr Hallam will approach the school to see if they would like to get involved. Cllr Hallam and Cllr Dart will report back at the next Parish Council meeting.**

## **Member of the public left the meeting.**

9.7 – **Noise pollution** – *Members discussed the increased festivals events in and around Laughton and the noise pollution and disturbance due to this. The Members resolved a letter will be created and sent to Cllr Watts, the Licencing authority at Lewes, Wealden and Rother councils and the pollution control in these areas. Also, any associated councillors that are involved in these departments. The letter will be circulated and agreed by email.*

## **10. ITEMS FOR UPDATING AND NOTING**

**10.1** - Clerk to update the progress on repairing the pot holes at the access of the school car park.

*Members noted the completion of the repairs*

**10.2** – Telecommunications Mast - To ratify letter sent from the Parish Council

*Members ratified the letter sent regarding the Telecommunications Mast.*

**10.3** - Water – Update on the recent progress

*Members noted the progress and please report any leaks to the relevant department.*

**10.4** - Footpaths - report from Cllr Crozier –

*Cllr Crozier reported the missing signs and theses have been reported and land owners contacted.*

## **11 - CORRESPONDENCE**

For noting (Previously Circulated or request a copy to be sent)

- Wealden District Council - Review of Polling Districts & Places Consultation
- Grey matters
- Funding for Parish Council from ESCC
- Wealden Parish Bulletin
- Email regarding Mile Marker from East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council
- Wealden Bus timetable Changes
- Wealden District Council Small grant scheme

### **Members noted correspondence**

#### **11.1- Correspondence after the agenda was published**

- Airs Conference - *email circulated*
- Parish Conference - *circulated to requested members.*

## **12. Outstanding Matters –**

- Archiving** - *The Clerk has transferred all records to the new lap top and will continue to back up records on USB's as well as hard drive.*
- **Pelham Field Insurance claim** - *The court case is being heard on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September at Hastings Crown Court, the results will be updated at the next council meeting.*

## **13- REPORTS (by leave) NOT FOR DECISION**

None

**Meeting closed at 9.26pm.**