



## LAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL



### **Minutes**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7pm.

Present: (Chairman) Cllr Dart, Cllr Crozier and Cllr Hallam

0 Members of the public present

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

*None*

- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - *Apologies were received from Cllr Breeds, Cllr Cook, Cllr Weller (Vice Chair), Cllr Bennett (East Sussex County Council) and Cllr Watts (Wealden District Council. This was due to the coronavirus pandemic.*

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

*None*

#### **4. MEMBERS TO AGREE CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS ON THE AGENDA FOR THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

*No agenda Items*

#### **TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE LAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

*The Minutes were agreed and signed accordingly*

- 5. Noise disturbance from outdoor festivals in and around Laughton**– *This item was postponed to a later meeting due to the coronavirus and government recommendations.*

#### **6. EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS –**

*ESCC – No report- A report will follow and be circulated.*

*WDC – No Report, an email had been circulated to all members with advice from Wealden District Council on the current situation regarding the pandemic*

#### **7. PLANNING**

a) **Plans** – *None*

**b) To consider any planning applications which have been received after the agenda had been published.**

**WD/2020/0308/P04** - BARNGATE MEADOW, LEWES ROAD, LAUGHTON, NR HAILSHAM, BN8 6BN. Change of use from agricultural building to dwelling house.

*Laughton Parish Council object on the grounds, there is insufficient information to comment whether the building is capable of conversion, particularly the element which has not been built which makes conversion of that element impossible.*

*The dwelling would be completely unsustainable. This is not in accord with national climate change targets. The gain of one dwelling is not sufficiently significant to*

*outweigh the harm. There is a danger of unplanned creeping ribbon development along this rural section of the B2124 which would adversely impact the Low Weald character landscape. There is no footpath. Occupants will be dependent on private vehicles as the bus service-even if it would stop in the vicinity- is not sufficient to replace a car. There is very little history of regular agricultural use generating vehicle movements which could be replaced by assumed domestic use.*

*If approved the Parish Council would want the removal of the mobile home a condition of approval.*

*The Parish Council would also like clarification on the impact of the proposal on the established use of the field as an annual gathering place for travellers.*

**WD/2020/0505/P04** – TOM THUMB BARN, LEWES ROAD, LAUGHTON, BN8 6BN. Conversion of redundant barn to a two-bedroom dwelling.

Laughton Parish Council object on the following grounds:

*The planning history of the site strongly suggests the building was erected for equestrian purposes, not for an agricultural holding.*

*No information has been submitted on the suitability of the foundations of the storage barn as to its suitability for residential use.*

*The historical use of the site has been very irregular. The presence of a sewage treatment plant on site is perplexing as there is no toilet shown on the existing floor plan of the storage barn.*

*The likely trip generation of a dwelling with stables is likely to be in excess of the actual trip generation of stables with a storage barn. The B2124 at this point is very fast and which ESCC Highways acknowledges is a safety problem. It would be unsafe for all road users to introduce more vehicle movements here.*

*The gain of one unsustainable dwelling is not significant enough to outweigh the harm.*

*There is a danger of unplanned creeping ribbon development along this rural section of the B2124 which would adversely impact the Low Weald character landscape. There is no footpath. Occupants will be dependent on private vehicles as the bus service-even if it would stop in the vicinity- is not sufficient to replace a car.*

*Members agreed due to the current coronavirus pandemic the majority of councillors were advised by government not to attend meetings for health reasons. For this reason, members agreed to consider these planning applications by email to allow all councillors to comment.*

- c) Planning applications refused, approved, referred, withdrawn or appeals**  
**WD/2019/2292/LB** STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS. THE COACH HOUSE, THE OLD VICARAGE, CHURCH LANE, LAUGHTON, BN8 6AH – **Approved**

**WD/2018/2696/LDE** – Land at Broomham Stables – **Appeal**

**Members noted these decisions**

- d) To note approved responses to applications and appeals approved by email –**  
*None*
- e) Other planning matters- To discuss or note any other planning matters brought to the attention of the Parish Council.**

- **Update from parish Panel meeting** – *No members were able to attend*
- **Local plan update** – *The letter received was noted*
- **Discuss response to email from East Hoathly and Halland Village Concerns Action Group.** *The clerk will create a response for all members to respond. This will be agreed and circulated.*
- **Cow Lane** – *Members noted the response from Highways.*

**8. 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

- **March Payments-** *These payments were approved.*
- **End of year Budget estimations** – *These were agreed and noted*

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

**9.1 - Village Maintenance** – *Members discussed the report previously circulated, as no matters were urgent this will be re addressed at the next full council meeting.*

**9.2 Playground Maintenance** – *There has been damage believed to be by vandalism on the fence in the toddler playground. This will be repaired by a contractor as soon as possible.*

**10.3 – Conflict of interest policy for volunteers co-opted to Parish Council Roles–** *Members will be asked to read the document so it can be discussed at the next full council meeting due to the current circumstances.*

**10.4 – Speed Related Issues/concerns in Laughton & B2124**

– **Update from Holly re her meeting with Highway Steward** – *Cllr Hallam met with the Highway Steward to discuss the previously addressed concerns regarding the footpath and residents safety. The Highway Steward agreed to address all the areas outlined. He also agreed to attend annually a Parish Council meeting for members to outline areas that need repairs. Cllr Hallam will contact the Highway Steward if the work has not been carried out. Due to the present situation and some current work on hold, this will be considered before contacting the department.*

– **To review recording accidents or incidents around Laughton.** – *Each member will alert the clerk to any accidents that occur around Laughton so a record can be kept.*

**10.5 – To review and adopt Standing Orders** - *Members agreed to adopt the standing orders with the Scheme of Delegation. The final version will be circulated and agreed by email.*

**10.6– To review and adopt Financial Regulations** - *Members agreed to adopt the Financial Regulations*

**10.7– Neighbourhood Watch** – *to be discussed at a further meeting*

**10.8-Pelham Field** – *Cllr Dart proposed to approach the Earl of Chichester with the solicitor who is being appointed on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Dart will revisit the document previously created and implement this action. This will be agreed by email and the Clerk will action the next steps. All members agreed this action.*

**10.9– Footpaths** – *No further action required*

**10.10 - Annual Newsletter** – *To refer this item to the next full council meeting.*

**11. APM and AGM** – *Members agreed to cancel the APM and defer the AGM to the next full council meeting due to the coronavirus pandemic and government recommendations.*

**12. ITEMS FOR UPDATING AND NOTING**

12.1- Water – Cllr Crozier informed members the work is due to start in 6-8 weeks, information will be sent to all residents. The work has been delayed due to the previous continuous wet weather.

12.2– Great British Spring Clean –Cllr Crozier reported that this has been postponed until September. cancelled. However, individuals are able to litter pick if they wished and she has the equipment to enable them to do so.

**13 - CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- The Big Wealden Switch 2020
- Wealden’s News Letter

**13.1- Correspondence after the agenda was published**

- Current coronavirus communication has been sent to all members
- ESCC grass cutting programme

**These were noted by members**

**14 – To discuss communication and protocol** – *The clerk will write a programme to send to all members to let them know protocols and procedures. Clerk will action this*

**15- REPORTS (by leave) NOT FOR DECISION**

Please note: The shop is creating a list of individuals who are willing to help residents in needs during the coronavirus pandemic.

Meeting ended at 20.11pm