



## LAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL



### ADOPTED Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7pm. Meeting held virtually. This virtual meeting is allowed under The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings (England & Wales) Regulations 2020.

Present: (Chair) Cllr Dart, (Vice Chair) Cllr Weller, Cllr Breeds, Cllr Crozier, Cllr Hallam, Cllr Poore and Cllr Young. Cllr Watts (Wealden District Council) and Cllr Bennett (East Sussex County Council)

No members of the public present

#### **1. Public Session**

*None*

#### **2. Apologies for absence**

*None received*

#### **3. To accept the minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020,**

*Cllr Dart asked for an amendment to agenda Item 10.4 - the cost of these lights will be partially offset by donations from parishioners.*

*All members agreed these minutes with this amendment and will be signed accordingly at the next available opportunity abiding by the social distancing rules set out by the government.*

#### **4. Declarations of interest. To receive notices of declarations personal and prejudicial, in respect of items on this agenda.**

*Cllr Poore declared an interest into the planning application WD/2020/1851/F as this is his application*

#### **5. Members to agree confidential items on the agenda for the exclusion of the press and members of the public.**

*None*

#### **6. East Sussex County Council and Wealden District Council reports**

*ESCC - Cllr Bennett explained he visited the site of the flooding outside the Village Shop with the Highway Steward and could see the water flowing away but both could not understand why it backed up the driveway. The ditches are to be cleared in the next week or so which should help the problem. ESCC will keep an eye on the situation and see if this issue is resolved or if further investigation is required.*

*Cllr Bennett reported election plans for May are still going ahead but this is under review.*

**WDC** – Cllr Watts reported the Community Hub is still available for help and advice during the pandemic and suggested any residents needing help should look on the Hub for information from the relevant department.

Wealden Covid-19 numbers were increasing but have now started to decline. More updates will be circulated and distributed as soon as they are received.

## **7. Planning and licence applications**

### **a) Plans**

*None*

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

*None*

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

**WD/2020/2105/F – Refused**

**WD/2020/1886/P04 – Planning permission required**

**WD/2020/1501/F – Approve**

**WD/2020/1541/F – Approve**

**WD/2020/1851/F – Approve**

**WD/2020/1816/F – Refuse**

*These planning decisions were noted*

### **d) To note approved responses to applications and appeals approved by email** – (These responses can be found on the Wealden District Council website or by request to the clerk.)

**WD/2020/2095/FR**

*Members noted this planning response*

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

**Publication of the Local Plan - Direction of Travel Consultation Document** – *Members discussed the previous circulated comments which were produced by Cllr Dart and Cllr Weller. Cllr Crozier and Cllr Hallam had additional comments to be included. These comments were agreed and Cllr Dart asked for any further comments to be emailed to her by the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to allow for the response to be sent on time. (The Parish Council's response will be published on the website on completion)*

### **f) Licence applications received before or after the agenda has been published.**

*None*

## **8. Financial Matters – Authorisation of payments of accounts – To approve accounts for payment – (a schedule of receipts & payments will be presented at the meeting) – list of payments on separate sheet.**

- **December & January Payments** – *These payments were agreed. Members noted the fingerpost is still awaiting completion and invoice. The payment will be held until this is complete.*

- **Budget** – Members reviewed and agreed the current budget to date.
  - **Members' Allowances report 2020/21** – Members decided to adopt the members' allowance for 2021/22. If members would like to claim this allowance, they will email the Clerk privately.
- **8.1 SETTING OF THE PRECEPT** – Members discussed the previous circulated budget figures for 2021-2022. All members agreed a precept of £15,730. This will be a slight decrease to the precept as the tax base has slightly decreased in Laughton. This would allow for the precept to remain the same with no increase to parishioners. Members felt due to the current pandemic and difficult year it was important to keep the precept the same rate as the previous year.

## 9. ITEMS FOR DECISION AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

**9.1.- Village Maintenance – Fingerpost repair** – The arm has been repaired and should be installed soon.

- **Ditches** – The ditch on Laughton Road adjacent to Pound Lane is to be cleared. Further work is required and this is being reviewed. Cllr Weller will investigate current concerns raised by a parishioner to see if there is anything further the Parish Council can do and will report back at the next meeting.

**9.2.- Playground Maintenance** – Cllr Weller reported she has been unable to place the caps on the playground equipment at this time due to guidelines and social restrictions. This will be completed as soon as possible.

A parishioner brought to Cllr Weller's attention the moss and sludge on the playground had become increasingly worse and suggested power washing to remove it. Members were concerned about the damage this would cause and agreed to obtain a quote and advice from a contractor. As this is a health and safety issue the decision would be agreed by email.

**9.3.- Speed Related Issues/concerns in Laughton & B2124** – An accident happened outside the village shop but this was not speed related.

Members were concerned about the increasing speed of vehicles travelling through the village. It was agreed that Cllr Hallam would draft a letter to be sent to the companies whose large commercial vehicles used the B2124 on a regular basis. This would be circulated to everyone before being sent out.

**9.4 – Christmas Festivities** – Members agreed to ratify the decision to keep the lights on the Village Green until March to help lift community spirit. Funds were being raised to increase the lighting for next Christmas. The working party would report to the Council on this at the next meeting.

**9.5– To agree next year's meeting dates-** Members agreed the meeting dates for 2021- 22.

**9.6– To review and adopt the Financial Regulations** – Members reviewed and adopted the financial regulations subject to an alteration on section 4.1 to be changed to £500.00.

**9.7- To discuss any actions to take due Covid 19 lockdown restrictions** – Members discussed the current lockdown and what measures have been implemented to help parishioners. Members discussed whether there was any further help required or that could be introduced in this lockdown to give support. Cllr Crozier reported that the Village Shop was providing a click and collect service for residents. Information is also available on the Parish website.

*Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 the parish magazine is unable to be distributed at this time.*

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

**10.1- Elm Close Footpath** -Members noted the request to install a footpath and this is being investigated further by Cllr Watts who reported the ownership of the land was not clear.

**10.2 – Census 2021** – Members noted the Census will be carried out in March this year.

## **11 - CORRESPONDENCE - All correspondence will be circulated and noted at the meetings For noting (Previously Circulated or request a copy to be sent)**

- Community Hub Updates
- ESCC Updates
- Newly published decision: Brownfield Land Register 2020

**This correspondence was noted**

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

- ESCC Funding news 2021
- News from MP Nus Ghani
- ESCC Covid1-19 stakeholder briefing

**This correspondence was noted**

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

Cllr Dart and Cllr Young submitted the response for the walking and cycle consultation.

Cllr Dart informed members she attended the planning cluster meeting.

Cllr Crozier reported South East Water are removing old water covers in the village following the installation of the new mains.

**Meeting closed at 20.38pm**