



LAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL



UNADOPTED Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 17th March 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 and Cllr Watts (*Wealden District Council*)

2 members of the public present

Minutes

1. Public Session

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the increased speed on Shortgate Lane. They have addressed these concerns with ESCC Highways and are meeting Cllr. Bennett in April. . They would like to work with the Parish Council on reducing speed in the Parish and asked for this to be included on the agenda at the next full Council meeting.

Another member of the public also raised concerns over the speeding in the Parish and asked to work with the members of the Parish Council.

Cllr Watts asked if there was an interest in a speed watch group. Cllr Crozier reported that one is being set up but it is not possible to do the training until the pandemic rules change.

The members of the public wanted to circulate a questionnaire to residents and Cllr Crozier said this could be circulated in the parish magazine.

The Clerk reported the Parish Council website has asked Parishioners to email the Clerk with any speed or traffic related incidents.

2. Apologies for absence

None

3. To accept the minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 17th February 2021,

All members agreed these minutes with a slight amendment and they 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 Weller declared an interest in the Bywood Farm application as she is a neighbour.

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 – No reports

WDC- Cllr Watts reported the Community hub is still operational and the calls are reducing. New information regarding the lockdown road map will be published soon. Grants are still available for businesses if required. Please contact the Wealden District Council.

7. Planning and licence applications

a) Plans

WD/2021/0093/F- RANDALLS FARM, WHITESMITH, CHIDDINGLY, BN8 6JB. Cattle isolation barn.

Laughton Parish Council objects to this application.

The Design and Access Statement says “TB is running wild in Sussex at this time uncontrolled by government”. This statement is at odds with the Animal Plant Agency Epidemiology Report for East Sussex which shows a lower annual herd incidence.

There is nothing to demonstrate how animal waste will be stored and disposed.

The parish council would therefore expect that the Rural Estates Surveyor will be involved to carefully consider and robustly scrutinise these figures to establish the exact picture and whether such a barn is necessary and economically justified, particularly in the light of the recent conversions of barns to residential use on this farm, including WD/2015/0941/F which was omitted from the planning history for the farm.

WD/2021/0275/F- CHURCH FARM COTTAGE, CHURCH LANE, LAUGHTON, BN8 6AH Ground floor side extension. First floor side extension with catslide. Replace roof to garage to create new home office.

Laughton Parish Council has the following comments:

Members expressed strong reservations about the enlarged detached garage element of the application because of the visual impact of the massing and bulk of the proposed structure.

If permission is granted members request a condition is imposed which restricts the usage of the enlarged garage/office to being ancillary to the occupation of the main dwelling and not for commercial letting or holiday accommodation. This is to ensure no extra traffic movements are generated as a result of the proposal.

WD/2021/0347/F -BYWOOD FARM, SHORTGATE LANE, LAUGHTON, BN8 6DF. Amendment to description of works – Form new vehicle access, new brick retaining wall, treated timber gate posts and 1600mm high timber gates. Construct new level parking area in permeable material.

Laughton Parish Council objects to this application for the following reasons:

1. Shortgate Lane is a lane in Laughton with the national speed limit of 60mph. It has become considerably busier over recent years and is now a ‘rat run’ to vehicles, both private and commercial, who wish to avoid the A22. The speed of vehicles travelling down the lane is normally

excessive and a danger to those who wish to safely walk, ride or cycle down it. Bywood Farm is situated on Shortgate Lane near a crossroads to Common Lane and an entrance to a BOAT and to a busy working farm. This crossroads has been the scene of several dangerous accidents, one in particular in 2020. The proposed location of the new entrance to Bywood Farm moves it nearer to these crossroads, thereby adding another access point to an already potentially unsafe junction.

2. The Parish Council considers that to allow this new entrance on to Shortgate Lane would be a dangerous addition to the nearby existing vehicle accesses. The Council cannot support this proposed new access given the current concerns about the record of accidents at the crossroads which it considers would be increased if permission was granted

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

WD/2021/0137/F – Withdrawn

Members noted this planning withdrawal

c) Planning applications refused, referred, withdrawn or appeals

WD/2020/2643/LDP – Not issued

Members noted this planning response

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/2021/0137/F

WD/2021/0219/F

Members noted these planning responses

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

Cllr Young brought to members' attention concerns about two areas in the village which had been reported to Wealden District Council.

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.

- March Payments - *These payments were agreed*
- Budget – *Members reviewed and agreed the current budget to date*

9. ITEMS FOR DECISION AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

9.1- Village Maintenance – Ditches/Flooding update

The Clerk informed members she is still trying to obtain the drainage maps.

Cllr Weller believed that the ditches had still not been cleared and the timescale given by East Sussex Highways had lapsed. The Clerk and Cllr Weller will chase this matter with ES Highways and Cllr Bennett.

9.2- Playground Maintenance – *The Clerk reported to members the expenditure over the last 5 years on the playground which was approximately £7,000.. Members agreed to consider the replacement of the playground and the Clerk will research into estimated costing and suppliers.*

9.3- Speed Related Issues/concerns in Laughton & B2124 – *the letters agreed at the last meeting have been sent to the commercial companies. Members discussed the parishioners' comments who attended the meeting and also agreed with their concerns. Members agreed to encourage residents to log any speeding concerns to the police. The details will be published on the website.*

Cllr Crozier will report on speed watch as soon as there was further information.

9.4 – Asset register – *Members approved the updated register and no further actions are required at this time.*

9.5–Parish Assembly – *Members agreed to hold a Parish Assembly on the 21st April after the Full Council meeting. The Full Council meeting will start at 6pm.*

9.6 – Face to face meetings – *Members agreed keep this under review. The Annual General meeting may be moved forward to the 5th May.*

9.7 – Litter picking and village planters- *Members would like to thank all the residents who volunteer within the Parish. There have been numerous litter pickers working hard to keep the Parish tidy. Residents also look after the planters making them a focal point for the village. A notice of thanks will also be placed in the Parish magazine.*

9.8 – Standing Orders – *Members approved and adopted the Standing Orders*

10. ITEMS FOR UPDATING AND NOTING

None

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
- News from Nus Ghani MP – 24.02.21
- Updated Action Log from Heathfield CSAG
- CPRE Sussex – Newsletter
- Armed Forces Community- Opportunity to work for the NHS
- Newsletter for Local Authority Partners Issue 17

These correspondences were noted

11.1- Correspondence after the agenda was published –

- Grass cutting schedule
- Census 21st March

These correspondences were noted

12- REPORTS (by leave) NOT FOR DECISION

Cllr Breeds reported concerns about 2 areas in the village which have previously been of concern to the Parish Council.

Cllr Crozier confirmed she had discussed the footpath decision at Elm Close with the resident which understood the reasons for it.

Cllr Dart attended a Cluster Planning meeting and will circulate a report.

Meeting Closed at 20.52pm