



LAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 15th September at 7pm.

Present: (Chairman) Cllr Dart, Cllr Breeds (Vice chair), Cllr Hallam and Cllr Young

4 Members of the public present

County Councillor Bennett and District Councillor Watts was also in attendance

1. Public Session

A member of the Christmas festivity working group gave a brief report of the plans to light 'The Green' for Christmas. They are wishing to extend the lights the other side of the Green and leave a gap on the area owned by East Sussex Highways. The Christmas tree and previous lighting would be as they were last year.

They would also leave the lights on until March again as last year if the residents requested this. If the residents asked for them to be turned off, they would remove the lights sooner.

Councillors asked questions and were very appreciative of the work that is being carried out and the generosity of parishioners donating funds to achieve this.

2. Apologies for absence

*Apologies were received from Cllr Crozier and Poore
Cllr Hallam informed the Clerk she will attend slightly late.*

These were noted

3. To accept the minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 21st July 2021,

The minutes were agreed and signed accordingly

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

Cllr Dart has a personal interest in agenda item 11

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

None

6. Co-option of candidate

Mrs Alison Wilson gave a small speech outlining why she would like to join the Parish Council. Cllr Dart proposed Alison Wilson to be co-opted. All councillors agreed the co-option. Mrs Wilson signed the declaration at the meeting visibly for all members to see this was then signed by the Clerk.

7. East Sussex County Council and Wealden District Council reports

Cllr Bennett sent the Clerk a report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting. He highlighted areas of the report and explained funding was available for road improvements and if parishes in the area work collectively to forward areas that are in need of improvements to him, this would have a greater impact.

Cllr Watts reported on various areas

- *He explained the housing proposal at north-west Hailsham is not yet an application, it's a proposal.*
- *Wealden crematorium is having an open day on Saturday the 18th September if anyone wishes to attend 11-3pm.*
- *Voter registration information is available and please can this be placed on the website. Wealden will help if you need guidance in registering.*
- *Wealden District Council have made a commitment to house some refugees from Afghanistan.*

Cllr Hallam entered the meeting at 19.27pm

Item 11 was brought forward and standing orders were suspended to allow for a member of the public to report.

11. Dangerous traffic on Shortgate Lane

A member of the public informed members the donations for the speed survey had exceeded expectations and a total of £745.00 has been received. This will allow for help towards any actions and measures that are recommended to be taken once the two speed surveys have been completed and assessed.

Standing orders resumed.

The members thanked the members of public for their work and agreed the survey could be actioned on the grounds once the exact positions were given to the Clerk.

8.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/2020/0455/O – Approve

This was 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/2021/0725/F

WD/2021/0726/F

WD/2021/1727/F

WD/2021/0347/F

These were noted

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

- **To approve response to the Sustainability Settlement Strategy-** *Members agreed the response to be emailed to Wealden District Council.*

-**To note potential enforcement issues brought to the attention of the parish council.** *Cllr Young is awaiting a response which he will chase and report back at the next Full Council Meeting.*

- **To discuss and agree response in regards to Grosvenor’s proposals to build 2500 houses on land referred to as North West Hailsham.** *Members agreed to support Arlington Parish Council and the questionnaire will be filled out by Cllr Young. The Clerk will forward the reply.*

-**National Resilience Strategy Call for Evidence –** *Members agreed Cllr Wilson will review and agree any response on behalf of the Parish Council.*

- **NALC Policy Consultation Briefing-** *Members agreed Cllr Breeds will review and agree any response on behalf of the Parish Council.*

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

None.

9. 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.

- **To agree Bank reconciliations July 2021 –** *Members approved the bank reconciliation.*
- **To agree Bank reconciliations August 2021–** *Members approved the bank reconciliation.*

- **To agree September payments** - *Members approved September payments and these were signed accordingly.*
- **To review Budget** – *The budget was reviewed and approved. The Clerk will make slight adjustment to the income to show separate credits received.*
- **To agree internal auditor and approve engagement letter** - *Members approved the engagement letter and for Andy Beams of Mulberry & Co to carry out the internal audit.*
To review grant application from Wealden Citizen advice - *Members agreed to award a grant of £250.00.*

10. ITEMS FOR DECISION AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

10.1-Village Maintenance – Ditches/Flooding update

It was reported some of the ditches were cleared but the drains still remain blocked. The Clerk will email East Sussex Highways and ask when this is going to be carried out.

- **Pruning of trees – To agree if any further action is required** – *Members agreed there is no more action at this present time.*

- **Planters - To agree removal** - *Members agreed the planters removal.*

10.3-Village gateways-*To approve costs to repair. – Members discussed the quote and asked the Clerk to investigate plastic gateways instead of repairing the original gateways. Also, if they are removed would temporary signs need to be implemented. Depending on the cost and style of the gateways the final decision would be agreed by email.*

10.2-Play Areas - *To discuss and agree new designs against cost.*

Members discussed the draft designs and agreed to make further comments by email. A final design would be agreed before sourcing further costings from various companies. The cost of the project would need to be found by applying for grants and fundraising.

To agree any action from ROSPA report – *Members agreed to the urgent items and the Clerk will action these.*

10.4- Dog/Litter Bin and signage – *The Clerk informed members signs were placed in the playgrounds and no further complaints have been received since these have been installed. It was agreed no further action is required.*

10.5 – Christmas lights – *Members discussed the proposal from the Christmas working party and agreed for the extra lights to be installed. The Clerk will liaise with the working party and report back to members when required.*

12. ITEMS FOR UPDATING AND NOTING

To note recent works completed - Members noted the recent works.

13 - CORRESPONDENCE - All correspondence will be circulated and noted at the meetings

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

-Email from resident regarding pub music

- Wealden Crematorium Open Day - 18 September
- Media release regarding dementia friendly activities in Wealden
- Afghanistan Resettlement Scheme media release
- Media release on WDC provision of public health funerals
- Media release: Chaplains receive cheque from Wealden Crematorium
- Beach safety, wonderful walks and the latest East Sussex news
- Pet theft taskforce recommendations welcomed
- Climate change emergency - two years on

<https://www.wealden.gov.uk/news/climate-emergency-two-years-on/>

Council leader's letter to Housing Minister over housing targets

These were noted

13.1- Correspondence after the agenda was published – None

14- REPORTS (by leave) NOT FOR DECISION

Cllr Young asked for the Full Council meetings to be in the large hall to comply with the social distancing recommendations and reduce risk.

Cllr Dart gave a brief outline of the recent Parish Cluster meeting she attended.

Meeting Closed at 21.07pm