



## LAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance: ESCC Councillor Nick Bennett

The Clerk was also in attendance

One member of the public was present

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

*None*

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

*Cllr Breeds and Cllr Young, these were noted. Cllr Poore was absent*

#### **3. To accept the minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023,**

*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 9.2*

#### **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**

*Cllr Watts was unable to attend but reminded Councillors of the need for voter id for the upcoming elections.*

*Cllr Bennett updated the meeting regarding pot holes throughout the whole County. New contractors will be starting in May, there has been considerable problems with the outgoing contractors, Cllr Bennett was confident the situation would improve, and asked the public to keep reporting road defects.*

**Item 9.2 was moved on the agenda to allow the participation of Cllr Bennett**

#### **9.2 Dangerous Traffic on Shortgate Lane**

*Cllr Bennett was thanked for forwarding Nick Skelton's report. Cllr Bennett shares Laughton Parish Council's frustrations, particularly with the problems of reducing the speed limit to*

30mph. Various options were discussed and comparisons made to other parishes in the county. Gateways could be an effective option. Attention was drawn to the crossroads in Shortgate Lane which were not marked by a crossroads sign. Councillors were concerned that ESCC officers were unable to agree, with each other, on the data regarding conditions in Shortgate Lane. ESCC regulations must be adhered to avoid objections. Cllr Bennett has received an outrageous email from a resident, and would be taking legal advice. Cllr Dart thanked Cllr Bennett for his input, Cllr Bennett confirmed he would continue to assist in this matter. Cllr Bennett left the meeting at 7.20pm.

**The meeting returned to the sequence on the agenda.**

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

### **a) Plans**

**WD/2023/0638/F 1 MILLWARDS COTTAGES, LEWES ROAD, LAUGHTON, BN8 6BN.**

**Change of use from equine stable block to 2 bedroom dwelling**

*Councillors discussed extensively the application and after considerations were made Laughton Parish Council objected to the application on the following grounds:-*

- *It is not clear the structure is capable of change of use without significant rebuilding.*
- *There will be a conflict between residential and current equine use, the proximity of the retained stables and proposed residential dwelling will cause conflict of noise, smell and hours of activity.*
- *The proposed development is in an unsustainable location in a rural area with limited public transport. The vicinity of the site on the B2124 has a history of road accidents.*
- *There is no ecological impact assessment. The council questions the assertions there have been no birds in the stables for 20 years.*
- *The location is in an area of medium risk from surface flooding according to Environment Agency data.*

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

**WD/2023/0481/P04 BARN GATE MEADOWS, LEWES ROAD, LAUGHTON, BN8 8BN**

**Proposed change of use from an agricultural building to 1 No. dwelling (C3 use)**

*The Council was surprised not to be on the consultee list for this application, the Parish Council was consulted on previous P04 applications for this site. The Council objects to this application.*

- *Reasons for earlier objection to application WD/2022/289/P04 are still valid*
- *The Parish Council does not believe that the structural report accompanying this application addresses the reason for the planning officer's decision on the previous application. Comments on the current floor are not clear and no investigations have been carried out on the foundations to demonstrate they are capable of supporting the proposed structure.*

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

**WD/2022/2019/F Approved**

**This was noted by members**

- 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/2023/0277/MFA Kitty Hawk Farm, Darp Lane, Ripe. BN8 6BB

WD/2023/0419/F 9 Laughton Lodge, Common Lane, Laughton. BN86BY

**These was noted by members**

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

**Local Plan – email**

**This was noted by members**

- 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.**

- Bank reconciliations March – Members approved the current account bank reconciliation, due to issues with changing the bank mandate access to the deposit account statement was not possible. The clerk will send the updated reconciliation by email
- April payments – Members approved the payments
- Direct Debits- Members approved the direct debits

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

### **9.1- Village Maintenance –**

**9.1.1 Ditches/Flooding** – it was noted that South East Water had supplied water when the water supply was recently interrupted.

**9.1.2 Planters** – a vote of thanks was made to Julie Russell for her work on the planters. It was agreed that the clerk would contact Vince Fisher regarding costs to provide regular maintenance, light weeding fortnightly. Drought resistant plants will be planted to ease the need for watering.

**9.2- Dangerous traffic on Shortgate Lane** – moved to earlier on the agenda, see above.

**9.3- Playground** – The clerk reported the fence to the infant playground had been repaired, the contractor had not been able to carry out works to the junior playground as the ground was still too wet to enable him to gain access with his truck. It was agreed that the fallen tree at the far end of Pelham Field would be left for now and reviewed at the next meeting. The gate post at the entrance to Pelham Field needs replacing, the gate and fence were originally erected by ESCC and investigations were needed to ascertain responsibility for repair, following discussions it was agreed that on this occasion Laughton Parish Council would obtain quotations for repair in the interest of safety and security. Responsibility for future repairs to the gate will need to be investigated. The clerk will contact Vince Fisher to obtain a quotation for the work.

**9.4- Defibrillator for the Parish** – Cllr Crozier will provide the clerk with the information she has gathered.

**9.5- Pelham field and UK power network-** Documents regarding the wayleave agreement were reviewed, it was agreed the clerk will contact UKPN and take the matter forward. Cllr Wilson will contact UKPN regarding the damage caused to Pelham Field. It was suggested that in future the clerk should be contacted before access is given to Pelham Field.

**9.6- Assets register** – The assets register was reviewed and approved, the clerk stated that the reviews need to be carried out in good time next year, the change of clerk had caused the unavoidable delay.

**9.7- Elections-** The Statement of Persons nominated was noted

**9.8- PK Littlejohn** – Intermediate Audit was noted

**9.9- ESALC Training** – It was agreed that the clerk would attend the Finance for New Clerks training session.

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

Cllr Crozier has been approached by The Roebuck Inn with regard to a donation towards the Coronation celebrations, this will be an agenda item in May.

Cllr Crozier informed members that the fly tipping in Shortgate Lane had been cleared.

Cllr Crozier reminded the council of the Emergency Alert taking place on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023.

The donation to Dementia UK in remembrance of Mike Cook will be on the next agenda.

Thanks were given to the litter pickers who had carried out an excellent job in the parish. Three further sections were identified for litter picking. Cllr Crozier was thanked for her work.

The meeting closed at 20.22