



LAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th January 2024 at 7.30pm at Laughton Village Hall

Present:

Chairman: Cllr Alison Wilson, Cllr Jane Alford and Cllr Sally Huggett

One member of the public attended

The Clerk was also in attendance

1. PUBLIC SESSION

The member of the public attending was introduced as a member of the Village Fete Working Group

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Holly Hallam and East Sussex County Councillor Nick Bennett
Cllr Mike Massingham did not attend.

3. TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETINGS HELD ON 13TH DECEMBER 2024

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

There were no declarations of interest

5. MEMBERS TO AGREE CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS ON THE AGENDA FOR THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no confidential items on the agenda

6. EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS

Wealden District Council –

Cllr Alison Wilson told Laughton Parish Council of the following:

- Wealden District Council will be using funds from their Rural England Prosperity Fund allocation to support a range of rural businesses with match funded grants up to £50,000, diversification outside of agriculture is encouraged.
- The first draft of the Local Plan will be published on 22nd January 2024, the plan will be considered at the full council meeting on 8th February 2024 with the formal consultation taking place in the weeks thereafter. It is important to note that anyone wishing to comment on the draft should make sure they do so within the statutory consultation period, the dates for this will be announced in due course.

East Sussex County Council –

Cllr Nick Bennett asked (via email) that should Councillors have any questions would they please contact him.

7. PLANNING AND LICENCE APPLICATIONS

a) Planning applications received

Application WD/2023/2960/F

Bell Farm, The Broyle, Halland. BN8 6ER

Following discussion it was **agreed** that:

Laughton Parish Council supports this application

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

None

d) No Licence applications have been received.

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Authorisation of payments of accounts – To approve accounts for payment – a schedule of receipts & payments was presented at the meeting

- a) Bank reconciliation December – **approved**
- b) January payments – **approved**
- c) Direct debits – **approved**

9. SETTING OF THE PRECEPT

Following the resolution to accept the budget tabled at the meeting on 13th December 2023, all members **agreed** a precept of £22289.00.

10. ITEMS FOR DECISION AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

10.1 Village Maintenance

10.1.1 Ditches/Flooding – A resident has reported flooding in Broomham Lane. Wealden District Councillor Alison Wilson has reported this matter to East Sussex Highways and reference numbers have been obtained.

10.1.2 Bus shelters – A parish resident has kindly offered to carry out repairs to the bus shelter on the B2124 Lewes Road. A risk assessment will be carried out. A contractor will be asked to inspect and provide a quotation for the repairs to the bus shelter on The Green.

10.2 Dangerous Traffic on Shortgate Lane – nothing further to report.

10.3 Pelham Field/Playground

10.3.1 Update on goal/basketball hoop – it was **noted** that the repair work is to commence on 16th January 2024.

10.3.2 Urgent repairs to infant playground fence – it was **noted** that repairs to the fence have been carried out.

10.4 Defibrillator for the Parish – it was **noted** that the Village Shop committee will be meeting in March and the Parish Council's request to site the defibrillator at the shop will be considered then. It should be noted that there are defibrillators situated at Laughton Community Primary School and at Laughton Lodge.

10.5 Community Speedwatch – it was **noted** that the Clerk has been in contact with Sussex Police, and that volunteers are required. Anyone interested in taking part should contact the Clerk.

10.6 Parish Emergency Plan – it was **noted** that Cllr Alford is making progress with the plan and is seeking volunteers in all areas of the Parish, Cllr Alford will report further at the next meeting.

10.7 Co-option of Councillors – it was **noted** that an election had not been requested and the co-option process had begun.

10.8 Cycle Rack/Rail at The Green, Laughton – it was **noted** that the Clerk was still seeking clarification regarding what planning permission would be required if this project was to go ahead.

10.9 Interim Audit - Councillors noted the finding of the audit and thanked the Clerk for the work involved.

10.10 Civility and Respect Pledge – Councillors asked the clerk to provide details of training at the next meeting. It was **noted** that Laughton Parish Council has already signed the Pledge, training will be a refresher and that no problems currently exist.

10.11 Village fete – the Village Fete Working Group will meet again in the following week. Plans are coming together well and a written update will be provided for the next meeting.

10.12 Correspondence received –

- There has been a report of dogs frequently out of control in Laughton woodland. The clerk has replied that the resident should contact Sussex Police.
- Flooding in Broomham Lane – dealt with earlier in the meeting.
- WGOD will be holding a meeting on 31st January 2024. Councillor attendance will be agreed by email.

10. REPORTS (by leave) NOT FOR DECISION:

The meeting closed at 20.35pm