



LAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th July 2023 at 7.30pm at Laughton Village Hall

Present:

Chairman: Cllr Wilson (Chair) Cllr Huggett and Cllr Alford

The Clerk was also in attendance

Two members of the public were present

1. PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the Winter Tree Lighting Group explained the history of the lights, installed in 18 trees on The Green, and how they had been so warmly received by the community, particularly during Covid. The lights used, whilst robust, are placed outdoors in trees that are constantly moving, so a degree of wear and tear is inevitable. One of the lighting group is a qualified electrician and if at all possible the lights would be repaired rather than replaced, therefore reducing costs. It was requested that an amount of £60 per annum was put aside to fund future repairs or replacement of the lights. The member of the Winter Tree Lighting Group suggested that a working party was formed which should include a Laughton Parish Councillor. The group would apply for permission to install the lights each year.

The members of the public left the meeting at 7.45pm

Cllr Hallam attended the meeting at 7.45pm

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Young and Cllr Massingham. Apologies were also received from ESCC Cllr Nick Bennett

3. TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 21ST JUNE 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

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

None

6. EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS

East Sussex County Council – A report was not received.

Wealden District Council – Cllr Wilson reported on the recent Wealden District Council Emergency Meeting when it was resolved that the Chief Executive would write to South East Water asking for a full explanation of the causes of the recent supply failures, the details of actions that would be taken to address them and confirmation of the actions being taken to

ensure there is no recurrence of the failures. The Leader and Chief Executive would write to OFWAT and the Government detailing Wealden District Council's concerns that South East Water could not maintain adequate supplies to existing residents, and would ask that there is a reduction in housing numbers for the District until a long term solution could be found. Cllr Wilson further reported that Uckfield Pool had been saved in principle. There would be a motion on the agenda of the Full Wealden District Council Meeting to discuss looking into community energy and to encourage more community interest.

7. PLANNING AND LICENCE APPLICATIONS

a) Plans

There were no outstanding planning applications to report on.

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

None received

c) To note planning applications approved, refused, referred, withdrawn or appeals

WD/2022/3146/F Land off Church Lane, Laughton BN8 6AH - **Refused**

WD/2023/0277/MFA Kitty Hawk Farm, Darp Lane, Ripe, BN8 6BB – this application was discussed at a recent meeting of the Wealden District Council Planning Committee South, a decision has been deferred until further landscape and ecological plans are received.

WD/2023/1145/LB Hammonds, Common Lane, Laughton, BN8 6BY - **Approved**

WD/2023/1406/F Hawthorn Cottage, 203 Laughton Place, Cow Lane, Laughton BN8 6DA – **Approved**

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/2023/1183/LB Meadowsides, Church Lane, Laughton BN8 8AH

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

Enforcement Issues – no further update

Wealden District Council Consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report –

Councillors noted that this was a very technical document and more readable consultation documents are due in the autumn.

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

None received.

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

- Bank reconciliations June - **approved**
- July payments - **approved**

- Direct Debits- **approved**
- Budget overview – **noted**. Councillors thanked the Clerk for producing this report.
- Grant Application – a grant application had been received from Wealden Citizens Advice bureau, following discussion on the detailed information provided it was **agreed** to award a grant in the sum of £300. Proposed by Cllr Hallam, seconded by Cllr Wilson and unanimously agreed.

9. ITEMS FOR DECISION AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

9.1 Village maintenance

9.1.1 Ditches/Flooding – nothing to report

9.1.2 Planters – Cllr Wilson will provide an update at the next meeting

9.2 Parish Council Business Plan – Cllr Hallam will begin work on the business plan in September.

9.3 Community Engagement – Cllr Wilson has spoken to another parish council, which offers drop in sessions and these have proved successful. Cllr Wilson has also spoken with the proprietor of Laughton Village Stores and she was happy for the café to be used. Initially the drop-in sessions will be held monthly, the first session will be on Saturday 16th September 2023 from 10am until 11am. Cllrs Wilson and Huggett to attend.

9.4 Winter Decorative Lights – this item was covered during public questions, Laughton Parish Council **resolved** to support the Lighting Group request for a funding contribution of £60 per annum.

9.5 Dangerous traffic on Shortgate Lane – an update will be provided at the next meeting.

9.6 Pelham Field/Playground – The Parish Council had been made aware that a large oak tree branch had fallen close to the school. The area was immediately cordoned off. Three tree surgeons were asked to inspect the tree and provide a quotation. Contractor A could not carry out the work until November, as the works were urgent a quotation was not requested. Contractor B provided a detailed quotation and method statement, and also identified other trees of concern – quotation of £996. Contractor C provided a quotation of £900. After careful consideration Councillors unanimously agreed to appoint Contractor B. ROSPA have recently carried out the annual inspection of the playgrounds. The goal post/basket ball hoop was immediately cordoned off. Quotations will be requested to remove the apparatus. Cllr Alford will investigate costs of replacing the basket ball hoop and report back to the next meeting. Cllr Wilson will review the findings of the ROSPA report in detail and report back to the next meeting.

9.7 Defibrillator for the Parish – Cllr Alford will assist Cllr Hallam, Cllr Alford will investigate funding opportunities available.

9.8 Community Speedwatch – Cllr Wilson will register Laughton on the Community Speedwatch website.

9.9 Website/Email – The clerk reported that she had started to set up councillor email addresses, these will be completed before the next meeting.

9.10 Parish Emergency Plan - deferred until the next meeting.

9.11 Community Events – a working party was formed - comprising Cllr Wilson, Cllr Huggett, Cllr Hallam and Mr Martin Wilson. Possible events were discussed, a report will be produced at the next meeting.

10. REPORTS (by leave) NOT FOR DECISION

For the next agenda:

Regular litter picking

CPRE and the extension of Gatwick Airport

SLCC membership for the Clerk

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 20TH SEPTEMBER at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.15pm