



LAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 20th April 2022 at 7.00pm.

Present: (Chairman) Cllr Dart, Cllr Crozier, Cllr Hallam and Cllr Poore.

The Clerk was also in attendance

No Members of the public present

1. Public Session

None

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Breeds, Wilson and Young, also District Councillor Watts and East Sussex County Councillor Bennett.

These were noted

3. To accept the minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 16th March 2022,

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

None

7. Planning and licence applications

a) Plans

WD/2022/0392/F- & WD/2022/0393/LB- Virginia Cottage, Lewes Road, Laughton, BN8 6BQ. New garage and secure store, new open sided porch, change of use of land to provide extended parking.

Laughton Parish Council support in principle the erection of a garage on this site but have concerns over the extension of the residential curtilage.

Cllr Hallam entered at 19.14pm

WD/2022/0530/F- Church Farm House, Church Lane, Laughton. Convert garage to bedroom and bathroom. New 2 bay timber frame garage with secure store, studio in roof void.

Laughton Parish Council have no objections subject to the condition restricting the use of the garage and studio roof void being incidental to the host dwelling.

WD/2022/0227/F – Bowen Farm, Park Lane, Laughton, BN8 6BP. Conversion of redundant agricultural barns to provide 2X 1 Bedroom cottages.

Laughton Parish Council object to this application for the following reasons, the two agricultural barns were given use from 1996 but were to be demolished if agricultural use ceased.

WD/2021/2795/FR- Land to the East of Park Lane, Laughton (KNOWN AS UPPER VERT WOOD) BN8 6RD Part retrospective application for erection of welfare facilities including a single composting toilet, a tool storage shed, two tarpaulin shelters and a timber storage/open shelter for the purpose of woodland management. Amendment to plans to correct the position of the existing structures within Upper Vert Wood, as well as the position of the proposed.

Laughton Parish Council OBJECT for the following reasons:

-This is Ancient Woodland so, as a principle, all development should be resisted. The parish council believes this application will harm that environment because, to date, the dominant species visible re-colonising this special woodland is man arriving in their own cars.

-The planning officer stated in the refusal to allow these facilities as permitted development in application WD/2021/7022/AD that the proposed storage building and one of the tarpaulin structures was only 80-100m from an existing large structure. The officer further concluded that a third composting toilet is not necessary for the purposes of forestry.

-Ample facilities already exist both sides of the Vert Lane byway and are within easy reach of all areas of the woodland under the ownership of the Community Benefit Society. The structures to the south of the byway permitted under WD/2017/7009/AD are already extensively used for education and training by the community benefit society's tenant Circle of Life Rediscovery [Outdoor learning training | Sussex | Circle of Life Rediscovery](#) and are underutilised for the purposes of forestry which was the reason those facilities were allowed under permitted development rights.

-The parish council believes that in a rural area humans have to accept that they will not have access to the same facilities i.e. toilets and shelter from inclement weather that they would have access to in a developed area or in a theme park for example. This is an integral part of working outdoors.

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

WD/2021/2869/F- Stone Cross Farm, Lewes Road, Laughton, BN8 6BN. Reposition of site entrance from Lewes Road to Mill Lane, with associated gates and landscaping.

Members agreed to discuss this planning application by email to allow members sufficient time to review the application.

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

WD/2019/0030/FR- Approve

WD/2021/3156/FR – Refuse

These were 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.)

None

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

- **Correspondence received from a resident-** *An email was received by a resident noting concerns over a recent planning application. Members asked the Clerk to ask the resident to inform Wealden District Planning department with their concerns and members will also monitor the situation. **All agreed this action***
- **Update of Planning cluster and overdevelopment meetings-** *Cllr Crozier and Cllr Dart gave a brief update of the current meetings attended and will continue to keep members updated by email or at meetings.*
- **SHELLA Sites** -*The email received from Wealden District Council was noted by members and will be placed on the website.*

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.

- **To agree Bank reconciliations March 2022-** *Members approved the bank reconciliation.*
- **To agree April's payments** - *Members approved April payments and these were signed accordingly.*
- **Agree Insurance renewal quote-** *Members agreed to renew the insurance with Zurich for five years.*

9. ITEMS FOR DECISION AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

9.1- Village Maintenance – Ditches/Flooding update – *No further updates*

- Ratify costs of Bench and Bus Shelter Maintenance – *Members ratified the costs for the benches and bus shelter maintenance required.*

9.2- Dangerous traffic on Shortgate Lane – *The Clerk reported the feasibility study was to go ahead last week but was waiting for further confirmation. The Clerk will chase the progress. **All agreed this action.***

9.3- The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – *Cllr Crozier gave a brief update that due to the lack of volunteers the progress of the event is not as advanced as she would have like. She asked for members to help in organising the event and will also put a notice up at the Village shop*

and on Facebook, the Clerk will advertise on website. Members agreed to an expenditure of up to £500.

9.4- Park Lane – Parking concerns were brought to the members attention by residents. The lane has increasingly become obstructed and dangerous by cars using the Vert Woodland for courses. Cllr Dart has drafted a letter for circulation for members to comment upon and for agreement by email. **All agreed this action.**

9.5- Laughton Greenwoods correspondence- An email was received by Laughton Greenwoods, members felt that a response will be discussed after a reply has been received following the parking concerns.

9.6- Grounds Maintenance Contractor – Members agreed for the Clerk and Cllr Crozier to work together in creating a contract of work and then obtaining 3 quotes. Once this has been completed it will be reported at a meeting for discussion and agreement. **All agreed this action**

9.7- To discuss Tommy on the Green for November – Members agreed for the Clerk to obtain further information on sizes and time frames for discussing and agreement at the next meeting.

9.8 –Data Protection – Members agree to move this forward to the next meeting for adopting.

9.9- Annual Parish meeting- Members agreed for the Annual General meeting to be at 6pm and the Annual Parish meeting to be at 7pm. The clerk will see if there is a possibility of a defibrillator demonstration for the Annual Parish Meeting.

9.10- Standing Orders and delegated Powers- Members approved and adopted the Standing orders and delegated powers.

9.11- Church Lane- The Clerk will email Cllr Breeds for an update this will be circulated by email.

10.ITEMS FOR UPDATING AND NOTING

- To note safety improvements on the B2124 between Ringmer and Golden Cross
- To note correspondence received about Park Lane

These were noted by members

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

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

-Media release - court injunction - 04.04.2022

This were noted by members

11.1- Correspondence after the agenda was published

- Email received from Cllr Wilson regarding tree planting for the Jubilee

This were noted by members

12- REPORTS (by leave) NOT FOR DECISION

None

Meeting closed at 20.41pm