



LAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 15th March 2023 at 7.00pm.

Present: (Chairman) Cllr Dart, Cllr Breeds, Cllr Hallam, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Poore and Cllr Young

The Clerk was also in attendance

No members of the public were present

Before the commencement of the meeting Cllr Dart informed those attending of the sad news of the passing of Mike Cook. Mike was a very knowledgeable member of Laughton Parish Council and served selflessly from 2011-2020. Mike will be greatly missed in the community.

1. Public Session

None

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Crozier, and these were accepted

3. To accept the minutes from the meetings held on Wednesday 11th January 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 11.2

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

A report from ESCC had been circulated before the meeting, a note from Cllr Watts had also been circulated before the meeting.

7. Ratify appointment of new Clerk to Laughton Parish Council

The resignation of Mrs Hannah Stevens was noted and members ratified the appointment of the new Clerk Mrs Lynette Kemp

8. Planning and licence applications

a) Plans

WD/2023/0277/MFA KITTY HAWK FARM, DARP LANE, RIPE, BN8 6BB. Variation of condition 1 of WD/2017/2574/MFA (Removal of condition 10 and variation of conditions 11 and 19 of WD/2013/2264/MEA (Installation of solar energy facility on

land west of Ripe utilising photovoltaic panels to produce up to 6 megawatts of renewable energy) to enable a 15 year extensions to the planning permission.

Laughton Parish Council considered the plans to be unclear. The report from South Downs National Park was acknowledged and the council agreed that the applicant should be obliged to increase bio-diversity. Questions were raised about storage and whether any extra storage facilities would require further planning permission. The panels currently installed are not 1m from ground level, and as such animal grazing is prevented. Cllr Dart will update Laughton Parish Council's comments on the earlier withdrawn application and circulate to councillors for agreement.

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

None received

c) Planning applications approved, refused, referred, withdrawn or appeals

WD/2022/2896/P04 – Planning permission required

WD/2021/3156/F - Refused

WD/2019/0227/F- Approved

WD/2022/3037/F- Approved

These were noted by members

WD/2023/0481/P04 Barn Gate Meadows, Lewes Road, Laughton BN8 6BN

Laughton Parish Council has not been consulted regarding this application, the clerk will contact Wealden District Council and circulate the response to Councillors.

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/2022/3146F

Laughton Parish Council has been informed of the request by the District Councillor for this application to go before committee, however this was unlikely to be before the election on 4th May 2023.

This was noted by members

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

- *Letter sent to ESCC from focus group*

This was noted by members but it was agreed not to support Hadlow Down Parish Council in this matter.

- Correspondence from Working Against Overdevelopment Group
Cllr Dart gave a report and commented on the help received from the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England in preparing the working group's response to the NPPF consultation.

This was noted by members

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.

- Bank reconciliations January – Members approved the bank reconciliation
- Bank reconciliations February – Members approved the bank reconciliation
- March payments – Members approved the payments
- Grant application – None received
- Direct Debits- Members approved the direct debits
- Payroll cost increase by 10% - noted by members
-

It was agreed by all present that a charity donation be made in remembrance of Mike Cook, Cllr Hallam will arrange this.

10. ITEMS FOR DECISION AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

11.1- Village Maintenance

- Ditches/Flooding – Further works had been done outside Holly Cottage

Noted by members

11.1.1 Planters – *it was agreed that a budget of £350 be allocated to re-stock the planters with drought resistant plants and a top up of compost, this is being kindly undertaken by a resident. The village contractor will be asked to keep the planters tidy.*

Members agreed the budget

11.1.2 Asset register – Cllr Breeds, Cllr Wilson and the clerk will liaise and arrange a time and date to review the asset register, which is to be completed before 31st March 2023

11.2- Dangerous traffic on Shortgate Lane – *Cllr Dart met with residents and Cllr Bennett. Cllr Bennett undertook to meet with Mr Nick Skelton, Assistant Director for Community Services because further assistance is required regarding suitable signage and the location of gateways. It was felt that nothing was addressing the issues for vulnerable road users. ESCC would support a 40mph speed limit, however it was considered that this could in fact increase speed on the lane. It was agreed to await signage suggestions and then investigate affordability.*

11.3 -Playground – *Members agreed to accept the quotation for repair of the playground fence, in the sum of £250. A further fencing repair was required to the infant playground. Members agreed a budget of £150 Proposed by Cllr Dart and seconded by Cllr Young. Cllr Hallam will forward photographs to the clerk to enable the contractor to provide a quotation, it is hoped that both repairs can be carried out at the same time.*

11.4- Defibrillator for the Parish – *Deferred until the next meeting.*

11.5 - . Rural Verges as Wildlife Corridors – Trial of Early Season Reduction in Rural Grass Cutting 2023- *the reported ecological benefits of reducing the number of cuts was discussed,*

although there were some concerns over a general untidy appearance within the village, it was agreed that as this was a trial Laughton Parish Council would take part. The clerk will action this.

11.6- Pelham Field and UK Power Networks – *Although the caretaker had been informed that a small excavation was going to be made it was in fact much larger than expected, causing considerable damage to the ground. There is no record of a wayleave agreement. The process for wayleave has begun but this can take 6 months, the council will continue to pursue the agreement.*

11.7 Elections – *Cllrs have spoken with several people who may be interested in standing for election, but no one has confirmed to date. The council will be quorate with 3 members. Cllr Dart reminded members standing for re-election that papers should be handed in as early as possible.*

12.ITEMS FOR UPDATING AND NOTING

- Darp Lane, Ripe – the works were noted.

13- REPORTS (by leave) NOT FOR DECISION

Nothing to report

Meeting closed at 20:09pm