



LAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th October 2023 at 7.30pm at Laughton Village Hall

Present:

Chairman: Cllr Alison Wilson, Vice Chair: Cllr Austin Young, Cllr Mike Massingham, Cllr Jane Alford and Cllr Sally Huggett

The Clerk was also in attendance

Three members of the public were present and two members of the Dangerous Traffic on Shortgate Lane Working Group were present.

1. PUBLIC SESSION

Agenda Item 9.4 - A member of the Winter Lights Working Group asked that Laughton Parish Council give permission for the winter lights to be installed in 18 trees on The Green. The illuminations would begin on Sunday 29th October 2023. Cllr Wilson will complete the risk assessment for the installation of the lights.

It was unanimously **agreed** to give permission for the lights to be installed.

A request was made for funding for the Christmas tree on The Green, the switching on of the Christmas tree lights was a very popular event in the village.

It was unanimously **agreed** to provide funding for the Christmas Tree in line with previous years.

Agenda Item 9.5 - Members of the Dangerous Traffic on Shortgate Lane Working Group asked LPC to support a Community Match Funding application. Consultation with the Parish regarding the proposed works will be required, the works could be carried out in stages. ESCC has suggested speed restrictions of 40mph, residents consider 30 mph is required as accidents have occurred, including one recent accident causing life changing injuries. Should a 40mph speed limit be introduced this would be monitored closely. It is generally considered that speed repeater signs encourage motorists to drive to the speed limit and not the road conditions. It has been recorded that vehicles travel north at a greater speed than those traveling south. Discussions followed regarding the positioning of village gateways. It was agreed that expert advice was needed. Further resources will be needed to carry out the consultation. Members of the working group informed the meeting that another member of the group was required, if a volunteer does not come forward the working group suggested that this would need to be a funded role. Cllr Wilson will investigate other sources of funding.

Actions:

- Approach ESCC for details of successful Community Match Funding applications.
- LPC to investigate costings for the consultation process.
- Investigate how to progress those traffic measures which are outside the Community Match Funding criteria.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hallam.

3. TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH SEPTEMBER 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 Young declared an interest in Agenda item 7c) Appeal No APP/C1435/W/23/3328682

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 – Cllr Nick Bennett gave a precis of his report submitted to Councillors prior to the meeting.

- It is anticipated there will be a balanced budget this financial year. The increasing demands of Adult Social Care and Looked After Children will have a very significant effect in future years.
- ESCC continue to reduce carbon emissions. Last year £4.26 million was invested in carbon reduction measures.
- Highways Maintenance Programme, 9,321 potholes have been repaired since May. The number of gangs has increased from 12 to 17 to pick up on a range of safety defects.
- Bus Service Improvement Plan – over half of all bus stops now have QR plates.

Wealden District Council – Cllr Wilson reported that Wealden District Council has received advice from King's Counsel on how to respond to planning applications where concerns are raised regarding the ability of Southern Water to have sufficient capacity to deal with the increased sewerage waste. Unfortunately WDC have been informed that this is not a reason to refuse planning but tougher conditions can be applied, known as the Grampian conditions and these include restrictions on occupation until the sewage infrastructure is improved to the satisfaction of WDC.

Cllr Alison Wilson left the meeting room at 8.10pm

7. PLANNING AND LICENCE APPLICATIONS

a) Plans

WD/2/23/2126/F – Virginia Cottage, Lewes Road, Laughton BN8 6BQ

Construction of new two bay timber framed garage with side store

Following review of the planning documents and subsequent discussions Laughton Parish Council **agreed** that there were **no objections** to this planning application.

Cllr Alison Wilson returned to the meeting room at 8.20pm. Cllr Austin Young left the meeting room at 8.20pm

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

None received.

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

APP/C1435/W/23/3328682 Land off Church Lane, Laughton BN8 6AH

Councillors reviewed the documentation, it was considered that the only change from the original application was the improved bus service, it was noted that currently the improvement in the bus service is a temporary enhancement for a two year period. Laughton Parish Council's concerns regarding increased traffic, water run-off and insensitive infilling still remain.

Cllr Young returned to the meeting room at 8.31pm

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

- Bank reconciliation September – **approved**
- October payments – **approved**
- Direct debits – **approved**
- It was **noted** that the change of bank signatory forms have been submitted to Co-Op Bank.

9. ITEMS FOR DECISION AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

9.1 Village Maintenance

9.1.1 Ditches/Flooding – nothing to report

9.1.2 Planters – two volunteers have started clearing the planters which will be re-planted in Spring. The planters outside the village shop and at the bottom of Shortgate Lane will be tended. Councillors thanked the volunteers.

9.1.3 Brickhurst Pond – nothing to report

9.1.4 Bus shelters – Cllr Young has inspected the bus shelter on The Green and confirmed the RoSPA report findings. Cllr Massingham will also inspect the bus shelter. Cllr Alford will ask for volunteers regarding improvements to the bus shelter on Lewes Road.

9.2 Business Plan – defer to the next meeting.

9.3 Community Engagement – the next drop-in session will be 4th November 2023, Cllr Alford to attend, Cllr Massingham will confirm attendance. Cllrs Young and Hallam will attend the December drop-in session.

9.4 Winter decorative lights – dealt with during Public Session.

9.5 Dangerous traffic on Shortgate Lane – dealt with during Public Session.

9.6 Pelham Field/Playground

9.6.1 Update on goal/basketball hoop – one quotation has been received for repair of the structure, the cost was more expensive than anticipated, it was **agreed** that further quotes are needed.

9.6.2 Urgent repairs to infant playground fence – following the recent playground inspection LPC's maintenance contractor has been asked to carry out some of the smaller works. It was **agreed** that a quotation for the replacement of two fence posts and modifications to the gate will be requested.

9.7 Statutory documents – the following documents were **reviewed**;

9.7.1 Standing Order 2023 – adopted

9.7.2 Financial Regulations 2023 – adopted

9.7.3 Financial Risk Assessment 2023 – adopted

9.7.4 Code of Conduct 2023 – adopted

9.7.5 Consent to Receive Summons Electronically 2023 – signed by all Councillors.

9.8 Defibrillator for the Parish – Cllr Alford gave further details of the latest funding options. Cllr Alford will speak with the owners of the potential sites for the defibrillator.

9.9 Community Speedwatch – deferred to the next meeting.

9.10 Website/Email – it was **agreed** that all councillors will start using the new email addresses from the date of the next meeting.

9.11 Parish Emergency Plan – Cllr Young will be the PEP Co-ordinator, a Deputy Co-ordinator will be required and three team members, a volunteer as a team member has kindly come forward. Volunteers will be needed for different areas of the village. The plan will be reviewed quarterly.

9.12 Regular Litter Picking – deferred to the next meeting.

9.13 Deer warning sign – the clerk has contacted East Sussex Highways to request signs on Shortgate Lane, deer warning information is now on the website.

9.14 Tommy on the Green – Laughton Parish Council **agreed** the placement on The Green and thanked the volunteers for their work.

9.15 Parish Council Contractor List – it was **agreed** the clerk will compile a Contractor List.

10. REPORTS (by leave) NOT FOR DECISION:

For the next meeting:

Budget

Christmas activities

Meeting Dates

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

DRAFT