



LAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th September 2023 at 7.30pm at Laughton Village Hall

Present:

Chairman: Cllr Alison Wilson (Chair), Cllr Austin Young, Cllr Mike Massingham and Cllr Jane Alford

The Clerk was also in attendance

One member of the public was present

1. PUBLIC SESSION

Cllr Massingham reported on the meeting of the Shortgate Lane Working Group which took place on 18th September 2023. Cllr Massingham had been informed of the contact with residents and reports commissioned before his joining Laughton Parish Council. The speed data and feasibility study report were discussed along with subsequent engagement with Cllr Nick Bennett which probed whether a 30 mph was possible. ESCC has chosen not to allow any discretion in the application of its speed limits policy.

Vulnerable road users engaged with the first parish council “drop-in” session to express concerns and experiences of using the lane, in some cases abuse and intimidation had been encountered. Further reports to Operation Crackdown were noted. Ownership of the land at the Elm Close junction is unknown, although the parish council maintains it.

The poor condition of the nearby bridleway was also noted.

Cllr Massingham will put a proposal forward at the October meeting of Laughton Parish Council to decide whether to progress a community match funding application for the safety measures that ESCC will support, as outlined in the feasibility study report. The application process includes consultation with residents.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hallam and Cllr Huggett.

3. TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH JULY 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 that Wealden District Council had recently refused a planning application in Hailsham because of concerns regarding Southern Water’s capacity to cope with the increase of sewage waste, problems on the boundary of the site had already been encountered. An appeal was anticipated, WDC has sought the advice of counsel. The Local Plan was being worked on and a draft is anticipated in late autumn for consultation with residents.

Cllr Wilson informed the meeting that WDC’s refuse collection lorries were now being fuelled by used vegetable oil.

Cllr Alison Wilson left the meeting room at 7.57pm

7. PLANNING AND LICENCE APPLICATIONS

a) Plans

WD/2023/2144/F Paygate Cottages, Cow Lane, Laughton. BN8 6DU

Erection of carport (2 bay) with granny annexe above.

*Councillors discussed extensively the application and after considerations were made Laughton Parish Council **OBJECTED** to the application on the following grounds:*

- *Carport/annexe very large in comparison to the main residence.*
- *Proximity to boundary and loss of privacy for neighbouring property.*

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

WD/2023/1264/F Barn Gate Meadows, Lewes Road, Laughton. BN8 6BN

Proposed three pitch settled gypsy accommodation site.

Councillors reviewed the planning documents received. Councillors will review the planning history of the site, including previous applications and appeals. As the application was received after the agenda had been published, therefore leaving insufficient time for the scrutiny of the documentation, the decision will be agreed by email.

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

None to report.

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.)

APP/C1435/W/23/3321437 Barn Gate Meadows, Lewes Road, Laughton. BN8 6BN

Change of use from an agricultural building to 1 No. dwelling (C3 use class).

Cllr Alison Wilson returned to the meeting room at 8.26pm

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

- Enforcement Issues – Enforcement notices received from Wealden District Council were **noted**.
- Formation of a planning committee – after discussion it was **agreed** that a planning committee was not necessary at this time. Cllr Wilson will leave the meeting room when planning applications are discussed and Cllr Young will take the Chair during Cllr Wilson’s absence.

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 July and August - **approved**
- September payments - **approved**
- Direct Debits- **approved**
- To add an additional bank signatory – it was **agreed** to add Cllr Huggett as a signatory.

9. **ITEMS FOR DECISION AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES**

9.1 **Village maintenance**

9.1.1 Ditches/Flooding – nothing to report

9.1.2 Planters – A nearby resident has volunteered to plant and maintain the planters. The previously agreed budget of £300 would be carried over. The two planters at the Shortgate Lane/B2124 junction will also be reviewed.

9.2 Parish Council Business Plan – deferred until the next meeting.

9.3 Community Engagement – Cllr Wilson reported that the recent “drop-in” event had been well attended. It was agreed that two councillors will attend each “drop-in” session, Cllr Wilson will email councillors to ascertain availability for future sessions.

9.4 Winter Decorative Lights – A member of the working group had contacted the clerk, the installation process for the lights will be an agenda item in October. The risk assessment will be reviewed. Cllr Wilson will review the insurance documents and contact Zurich Insurance if required.

9.5 Dangerous traffic on Shortgate Lane – this item was covered during public questions.

9.6 Pelham Field/Playground – Following the ROSPA annual inspection of the playgrounds the goal post/basketball hoop was cordoned off with tape, this has now been replaced with Heras fencing. The quotation for removal had been higher than expected and the report provided by Cllr Alford had shown that replacement costs were also very high.

Following discussion it was **agreed** that repair of the apparatus should be investigated. The clerk advised councillors that any repairs would need to be inspected by suitably qualified engineers following completion.

Two other items were noted from the RoSPA report, the clerk will seek advice from the supplier regarding the Trim Trail. Cllr Massingham will inspect the upright post in the meantime. The bus shelter on The Green will also be inspected.

Cllr Massingham was thanked for his work.

9.7 Defibrillator for the Parish – Cllr Alford’s report regarding the supply, installation and funding was circulated. Possible sites were discussed. More funding opportunities will be available in October. Cllr Alford will provide an update at the next meeting.

9.8 Community Speedwatch – Cllr Hallam has registered Laughton with Community Speedwatch.

9.9 Website/Email – The clerk reported that all councillor's new email accounts had been set up. The date that all councillors will transfer to the new accounts will be agreed at the next meeting.

9.10 Parish Emergency Plan - deferred until the next meeting.

9.11 Community Events – Cllr Wilson reported that the first meeting of the working group had taken place. It had been agreed that a village fete would take place next summer, with a provisional date of 8th June 2024.

9.12 Regular Community Litter Picking – deferred until the next meeting.

9.13 Deer Warning Road Signs - Cllr Huggett submitted a report prior to the meeting regarding the provision of Deer Warning Road Signs on Shortgate Lane. There has been a considerable increase in deer sightings and this presented a significant danger to road users, and death of deer. It was **agreed** that contact will be made to ESCC Cllr Nick Bennett to seek his advice.

9.14 SLCC membership for the Clerk – following discussion and review of the report submitted by the clerk it was **agreed** to support the clerk in membership of the SLCC.

9.15 Auditors' 3 year agreement – the parish council's auditors, Mulberry & Co have raised the hourly rate, this rate would not be increased further if parish councils enter into a 3 year agreement. It was **agreed** to enter into the 3 year agreement.

9.16 CPRE and Gatwick Airport - it was **agreed** that Laughton Parish Council would not make a donation at this time.

10. REPORTS (by leave) NOT FOR DECISION

For the next agenda:

Bus shelters.

The formation of a contractor list.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 18th October at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.30pm