



Laughton Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th April 2025 at 7.30pm at Laughton Parish Hall

Present:

Cllr Sally Huggett (Chair), Cllr K Syrad and Cllr S Whiting,
East Sussex County Councillor Nick Bennett
Julia Shelley, Locum Clerk
There were no members of the public in attendance.

1) Public Session

No public session required.

2) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Alison Wilson and Cllr Jane Alford,

3) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2025 were agreed and duly signed.

4) Declarations of interest and notification of any changes to the Register of Interests

There were no changes to the Register of Interests.

5) Confidential Items on the agenda for the exclusion of the press and public

It was RESOLVED that there were no confidential items.

6) Report by East Sussex County Councillor Nick Bennett

Cllr Bennett confirmed that the Unitary Authority Development Plan has been passed to the Minister of State for Government and English Devolution. Community consultations will now take place along with identifying ways to align the district and unitary authority processes.

Report by District Councillor Alison Wilson

None.

7) Working Groups

a) Broadband provision in the Parish.

The resident is trying a Vodaphone connection via external aerial will be asked to provide the Parish Council with a report identifying cost and the level of performance improvement.

b) Sewage and flooding issues in the Parish.

Cllr Huggett to check with Cllr Wilson re minor changes and agree distribution date.

c) Footpaths

Cllr Huggett reported on paths inspected. No further inspections required until the autumn.

d) Laughton Summer Fete

Plans progressing smoothly.

e) Training

Cllr Syrad's attendance at NALC community engagement event confirmed.

8) Planning and licence applications

a) Planning applications received

TM/2025/0090/TPO FELL 27 TREES TO AID ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION WITHIN TREE PRESERVATION ORDER (LAUGHTON) TPO/2016/0001

It was RESOLVED there was an OBJECTION to this application

As there is no approved planning application for the site it seems premature to fell so many trees for a speculative archaeological investigation. The brick yard, one of several in the area, is recorded clearly on the turn of the century OS map and the rise and fall of the yard very clearly shown in the documents referenced in the consultant archaeologist report. Any recommendation for an archaeological survey should come from the District Council as part of the consideration of a specific planning application.



The Parish Council object to the work being undertaken at the current time as the removal of the 27 trees may effect the consideration of a future residential housing development application.

WD/2025/07776/F – The Weald, Church Lane, Laughton, BN8 6AH.

It was RESOLVED there was no OBJECTION to this application.

WD/2025/0401/F – Ivy Farm, The Broyle, Halland

It was RESOLVED there was no OBJECTION to this application.

Planning applications received between the publication of this agenda and date of the meeting: None.

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

None

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

None

f) Licence applications received

None

9) Financial Matters

a) Bank reconciliation March 2025 – Approved

- b) March payments –Approved
- c) Direct Debits – March 2025
28/03/2025, Team4, Payroll - £12.00
- d) Grant applications – none received

10) Items for decision and allocation of resources.

10.1 – Village Maintenance

10.1.1 Flooding and drainage issues.

10.1.2 Bus shelters.

10.1.3 Village gateways

The village gateways were inspected. It was agreed to ask William Tipler if he would quote for painting the village gateways in situ.

10.1.4 Noticeboard

10.1.5 Defibrillator

10.2 Emergency Plan

No update.

10.3 Tennis/Sport Court at Pelham Field

Cllr Whiting reported that the working group have met and an understanding of the requirements and practicalities is being developed. It was **agreed** to have a stall at the fete to collect basic contact details of residents and promote the different opportunities; councillor, working party member or more casual volunteer.

10.4 Tree Warden

No update

10.5 Pelham Field/The Green

10.4.1 Playground Equipment

10.4.2 Wealden Sports Infrastructure Fund in relation to Pelham Field

Cllrs Whiting and Wilson completed the tests as required.

10.6 SLR meeting Laughton Parish Council.

Action: Clerk to request information about issues from Councillors ahead of meeting.

10.7 Parish Council Priorities for the year ahead

Action: Clerk to update the spreadsheet and add a tab to allow issues to be 'parked' temporarily until resources allow progress..

Action: Allocated time scale to remaining priorities – carried forward.

Action: Create a flyer with paragraph on working group highlighting the activity of the groups and asking for volunteers. Use on the web, at the AGM and the MP's visit in the summer.

10.8 Co-option of Parish Councillors

No expression of interest regarding the vacancies have been received.

10.9 Annual Village Meeting Update

Provided.

10.10 Sussex Police Street Surgery.

Action: Cllr Huggett to discuss with Cllr Wilson.

10.11 Training Opportunities

Noted.

11) Reports (by leave) not for decision

No reports received.

The meeting closed at 9pm

The next Full Council meeting will be held on the 21st May 2025.