



LAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL



TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:

Cllr A Wilson, Cllr S Huggett, Cllr J Alford,
Cllr S Whiting, Cllr K Syrad

You are hereby summoned to the Meeting of the Parish Council

To be held at the Laughton Parish Small Hall Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 7.30PM

Meeting called by Tania Freezer, Clerk

Signed: T Freezer

Date: 15th January 2026

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Member of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend. The first fifteen minutes of the meeting are available for the public to express a view or ask a question on relevant matters on the agenda. The public and members of the press are also welcome to stay and observe the rest of the meeting (subject to any items considered as confidential within the terms of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960. The press and members of the public are reminded that they must remain silent when the meeting is in progress in accordance with The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

- 1. Election of Chair for meeting**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. To accept the minutes from the meeting held on 7th January 2026.**
- 4. Declarations of interest. To receive notices of declarations personal and prejudicial, in respect of items on this agenda.**
- 5. Members to agree confidential items on the agenda for the exclusion of the press and members of the public**
- 6. East Sussex County Council and Wealden District Council reports**
- 7. Working Groups – to receive reports and agree further actions for Full Council at the next meeting.**

7.1 No written reports for this meeting

- 8. Planning applications approved, refused, referred, withdrawn or appeals (to note)**

Application No. WD/2025/1683/LDE

STATIONING OF A MOBILE HOME FOR INDEPENDENT RESIDENTIAL USE AND USE OF ASSOCIATED LAND AS GARDEN

SHIRLEA, AVERYS OAK FARM, COMMON LANE, LAUGHTON, BN8 6BY

You recently commented on the above proposal and I now write to advise you that, after considering all the representations received, the Council has decided to **ISSUE** the above application on 18 December 2025.

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

10. 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.

10.3 January 2026 Payments – To approve

10.4 January 2026 Direct Debits – To approve

11. Items For Decision and Allocation of Resources

11.1 To Discuss and Consider potential actions and RESOLVE on the following relating to the MUGA Planning Application at Pelham Field (WD/2025/1980/F)

11.1.1 Following discussions with the Planning Department at Wealden District Council to Consider amending the applicant on the application to be Laughton Parish Council.

It has been confirmed by Wealden District Council that this amendment would not result in a financial charge to Laughton Parish Council and that this would be an amended application, and not a new application.

11.1.2 In response to concerns raised by residents - to consider and debate three options and vote accordingly:

Option 1: Go ahead and build the shelter but amend the Planning Application to show that all 4 sides are unboarded/open.

Option 2: Agree to keep the shelter in the Planning Application but seek to consult further with residents before commencing construction, and amend the application to show that all 4 sides are unboarded/open.

Option 3: To remove the shelter from the Planning Application.

Notes:

It has been confirmed that:

- *The shelter height is 5 metres high.*
- *The opening hours for the Sports Court will be Weekdays 09.00 to 20.00, Saturday 09.00 to 18.00 and Sunday 10.00 to 18.00 as detailed in the Planning Application Form.*
- *The school will have 3 hours use per week days during term times.*
- *a CIC is to be set up to fund-raise for, build, operate and maintain the court should planning permission is granted.*

11.2 Councillor Training

To consider Refresher training for members along with East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council at a total cost of £300 + VAT (shared with EHwHPC).

11.3 Grant Application – East Sussex Vision Support

To consider a grant application.

11.4 Community Orchard Fund Round 2

To consider applying for a grant for funding to establish a community orchard on the village green.

12. REPORTS (by leave) NOT FOR DECISION

12.1 Clerks Update: Website Update, Christmas Tree, Noticeboard, Village Gateways

12.2 Communication Strategy Report from Cllr K Syrad

The next Full Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th February 2026 at 7:30pm

Agenda Item 11.3 Grant Application East Sussex Vision Support

Thank you for reaching out and inviting us to share a value for consideration by the councillors. Below, I've provided further details about our Information Technology project, which I hope will assist councillors in making a decision to support ESVS.

Information and Technology Project

Providing vital IT access and training for blind and partially sighted residents across East Sussex. Many of our clients cannot use mainstream IT services, leaving them excluded from everyday life. This initiative delivers essential IT access and tailored training, helping blind and partially sighted residents build digital confidence and stay connected. Without this support, many face increased isolation, reduced independence, mental health challenges, and significant barriers to employment, financial management, and community engagement.

Our Mobile IT Support Service

We bring support directly into people's homes, offering:

- Supply and setup of accessible equipment
- One-to-one training with at least three follow-up visits per client
- Ongoing backup support by phone and in person
-

Impact of the Service

This tailored in-home digital support enables clients to:

- Reduce social isolation through communication tools like Zoom and FaceTime
- Improve independence via online banking, shopping, healthcare, and essential information
- Access learning, training, and employment opportunities
- Enhance wellbeing with recreational tools such as talking books and talking news
- Participate more fully in community life through online publicity and local events

By supporting this service, councillors can help residents in Laughton and surrounding areas live healthier, more independent, and more connected lives — ensuring that vision impairment does not mean exclusion in a digital society.

Funding Impact

- £75 enables one person to fully benefit from our IT service
- £225 supports three people
- £750 extends this to ten individuals.

Whatever level of support is possible will make a tangible difference to the lives of people in our community.

We are deeply grateful for your consideration and support, and we truly appreciate any funding you may be able to offer. Every contribution makes a meaningful difference to our work and those we serve.

Report by Councillor Kay Syrad

Good communication increases trust and lowers the risk of negative engagement taking hold. The speakers outlined several strategies for good communication between Parish Councils and their community.

1. Create a Communication Strategy, ie. a written document agreed by the PC that provides a clear framework for engaging (ie. building a relationship) with our community.
2. Think ahead, identifying risk and pressure points so that our responses are intentional rather than reactive. Prepare in advance for difficult decisions, showing the complexity and fairness of the process we have gone through, how different options were explored.
 - For example, people will be wondering about the imminent Local Government Reorganisation: can we communicate what we know in advance to avoid worry and confusion in the community?
 - For example, can we communicate budget decisions before they are finalised?
3. Clarify our 'evergreen' message as a Parish Council, ie. have an overarching message that we want folks to take away each time we communicate. Put our logo on everything. Be clear about who is telling the story. Be honest and clear.
4. Use a resource- and subject- appropriate mix of communication channels, both analogue and online.
5. Have advertised times in the year when residents can actively engage with us, over and above PC meetings.
6. Use plain, jargon-free language that is relatable and understandable. Tell the real story, showing why it matters. Let humanity guide the tone.
 - For example, start with the WHY behind decisions, thereby helping to show context and create empathy. This makes the WHAT and HOW easier to accept.
 - Translate data and policy into real-world effects, showing what it means to the community and not just to the Parish Council.
7. Have a response-strategy for when things go wrong:
 - Acknowledge and own our decision.
 - Apologise if appropriate. Tell the truth. Be compassionate.
 - Reset the narrative by simply explaining context, pressures, etc.
 - Rebuild trust through transparency, with updates to show we are listening and taking responsibility.
8. Be consistent and confident in our messaging. Repeat our message as a story. Understand our own narratives.
9. Understand and communicate the parameters of our own role as a Parish Council compared with the role of the other tiers of our local authorities. See for example:

<https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/article/1759/A-Z-of-key-services>