

LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 12 January 2006

Present: Mrs A Martin-Jenkins (Chairman), Mr R T Baker, Mr R E J Cooper, Mr J R Court, Dr A H J Tate, Dr P J H Wilding, Mr J P Wright and Mr P J Széll (Clerk).

Also present were four members of the public.

1/06 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apolo­gies for absence were received from Mr G Sharp, Mr P W J Moffatt and Dr P Mackey.

2/06 - CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chairman reminded members of their responsibilities under the Code of Conduct.

3/06 - MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4/06 – MATTERS ARISING

1. Affordable housing. Arrangements had been made for Mr Austin Wade, Chichester DC's Rural Housing Enabler, to make a presentation and answer questions about the provision of affordable housing in rural areas at the Council's meeting on 9 March 2005.
2. School bus service. Following representations from parents and the Parish Council, the County Council had, with effect from 9 January, rerouted the school bus for pupils attending Midhurst GS so that it again runs via Dial Green.
3. Blind Lane. The Woodcraft Folk had written stating that, as requested, they would remind their drivers to avoid Blind Lane when going to and from the Park Farm campsite.

5/06 – OPEN FORUM

A member of the public reported that the ditches and the edges of the road along most of Roundhurst Lane were still in a bad state and needed attention, if not by the adjacent landowners, then by the Highways Department. Similarly, overhanging branches along the lane needed to be cut back. It was agreed that the Clerk should speak to the County Highways Department again on these and related matters and write to the National Trust about cutting back foliage along its boundaries in Roundhurst Lane.

6/06 – COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Dr Mackey's report (see Annex A) was read out by the Clerk.

7/06 – FINANCE

1. Financial statement. The Clerk distributed:
 - (a) a statement of the position of the Council's bank accounts, incorporating details of cheques that needed to be issued and for which approval was sought; and
 - (b) figures setting out income and expenditure against the budget for the current financial year.

The Council approved payment of all the cheques listed in Annex B attached.

2. Budget 2006-07. Members considered the draft budget prepared by the Budget Committee at a meeting on 5 December 2005 and agreed by consensus to adopt it as its budget for the coming financial year, subject to two modifications: (i) increasing the proposed grant to the Village Hall

from £900 to £1000 and (ii) adding a grant of £250 to the South Downs Joint Committee (SDJC) - see Annex C.

3. Precept for 2006-07. Members decided that the Parish's precept for the coming financial year should be £8000 - the same level as last year.

8/06 – PLANNING

1. **Applications**

Six planning applications had been made since the Parish Council's last meeting. The first three listed below had already been considered by the Planning Committee; it had no comments on, or objections to, the proposals. The remaining three had yet to be considered by the Committee:

LG/05/04365/DOM: PEAR TREE COTTAGE, THE GREEN

Erection of a single storey, timber framed, glazed conservatory and demolition of porch

LG/05/04367/LBC: PEAR TREE COTTAGE, THE GREEN

Erection of a single storey, timber framed, glazed conservatory and demolition of porch

LG/05/04640/TCA: ST.LAURENCE'S CHURCH

Notification of intention to remove 1 no. major limb, reduce next limb by 50% and reduce remaining lower branches (to gain clearance from church) of 1 no. yew tree. Remove and/or reduce various limbs (to give 3 m. clearance above roof of church) of 1 no. yew tree. Fell 1 no. larch tree

LG/05/04750/FUL: LEA COTTAGE, ROUNDHURST LANE

Erection of a replacement dwelling following the demolition of the existing dwelling (revision of planning permit: LG/05/01076/FUL)

LG/05/04841/DOM: LOWER ROUNDHURST FARM, ROUNDHURST LANE

Part demolition and rebuilding of existing house

LG/05/04852/DOM: PARKHURST HOUSE, JOBSONS LANE

A two-and-a-half storey side extension to the west and north elevations and a single storey extension to the east elevation with a basement to replace the existing cellars

2. **Decisions**

Four decisions had been received from Chichester DC since the last meeting:

LG/05/03584/DOM: VALEWOOD GRANGE, FERNDEN LANE

Alterations to existing garage/shed and erection of lean-to garden room

PERMIT

LG/05/03588/DOM: 2 BLACKDOWN COTTAGES, FERNDEN LANE

Two-storey rear extension

PERMIT

LG/05/03764/DOM: CROSSWAYS, HILLGROVE LANE

Garden shed

PERMIT

LG/05/03909/COU: HIGH MEADOWS, FERNDEN LANE

Change of use of existing rural building to an office for own use

PERMIT

3. **Notification of appeal**

LG/05/02758/FUL and LG/05/02757/FUL: SODS FARM, HIGH HAMSTEAD LANE

Additional link A to conversion of redundant agricultural buildings to provide live/work unit

These linked applications were refused by Chichester DC on 13 September 2005. It was noted that the Council had till 1 February 2006 to decide whether to make representations on the appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.

4. Other planning related issues

1. Woodcraft Folk. The Chairman reported on the District Council's planning meeting on 14 December 2005 which she had attended on behalf of the Council. The Woodcraft Folk, she said, had been unwilling to enter into a section 106 agreement on what the DC considered reasonable terms (ie a limit of 100 persons on site) and so the DC's Development Committee was now minded to seek once again an Article 4 direction (which, if issued, would involve suspension of the Woodcraft Folk's permitted development rights and tighter control by the DC of activity on the site). She was encouraged by the DC's strong line and hoped it would lead to an outcome that met the interests of both the village and the young people using the site.
2. Former Blackdown Mission. Enquiries were continuing regarding the ownership of the buildings and the land on which they stand.

9/06 – HIGHWAYS

1. Dickhurst Lodge. Waverley BC had informed the Clerk that its Planning Department had assessed the new exit onto Rodgate Lane with a view to determining what action, if any, should be taken by it or, as the case may be, Chichester DC.
2. Broken bridges. The broken footbridges at the junction of footpaths 2034 and 2029 at Hillgrove had been reported to the SDJC which had given an assurance that repairs would be carried out in February.
3. Northhurst Lane. The Clerk had been told by the County Highways Department that the slippery stretch of tarmac outside Northhurst Farm would be resurfaced in May 2006.
4. High Lane. It was noted that in December the SDJC had erected bollards at the Windfallwood Common end of High Lane. Since then there had been a marked drop in recreational motor 4x4 use of the lane and increased use by walkers and riders.
5. Waste tipping. Two instances of waste tipping (at Whites Green and adjacent to Boxalland Farm) had been reported to, and quickly dealt with by, the County Council.
6. Parkhurst House. It was noted that, in addition to erecting a new wooden fence adjacent to Orchard Cottage, the owners had planted a line of laurels between the fence and road. The Clerk was asked to inform the Highways Department of this since such plants would in due course cause problems by encroaching over the roadway.
7. Hedges, trees and ditches. The Chairman asked for a note to be included in the February Newsletter reminding residents of their responsibility to ensure that hedges and overhanging branches are cut back from the highway. Ditches, too, should be maintained in good order.

10/06 – RISK ASSESSMENT

Members considered and approved the conclusions of the Risk Assessment Committee drawn up at its meeting on 5 December 2005 (see Annex D).

11/06 – ALLOTMENTS

1. Rent review. Members agreed to the Leconfield Estate's proposal to increase the allotments rental to £138 per year from 25 March 2006, with the understanding that a review of the new figure would not be sought within 3 years (ie before 25 March 2009).
2. Plot fees for 2006. Members decided that the cost for a full plot in 2006 should remain at £10 and for the smaller plots at £5.

3. Fencing. The poor condition of the post and rail fence along part of the western side of the allotments was noted. It was agreed that Mr Baker and Mr Court would inspect to establish the extent of the problem and, if possible, to carry out repairs.

12/06 – WASTE SKIP

The Clerk informed members that a skip, plus qualified supervisor, had been provisionally hired for Saturday 6 May from 10 am to 12 noon at the Village Hall car park. The Council approved the timing, conditions and cost of the hiring. The Clerk was requested to confirm the booking and publicise the skip in the Parish Newsletter.

13/06 – PLAYGROUND

1. New fencing. A third estimate for replacing the fence along the Greengates playground boundary had been obtained. Members considered the estimates and concluded that, in terms of durability, appearance and safety, bow-topped fencing panels rather than, as at present, chain link fencing should be used, that the best value offer should be accepted and that a CDC discretionary grant should be sought. The Clerk was asked to take matters forward and to report on progress to the March meeting.

2. Old table. The old play area table had now been removed, but the new table has still not been fixed to the ground as recommended in the RoSPA report. The Chairman again called on Mr Court and Mr Sharp to ensure this action point is carried out soon.

14/06 – FOOTBALL FIELD

The Chairman raised the issue of the deteriorating condition of the football field now that the football club is no longer functioning. Members agreed that the field was an important parish facility and that the Chairman should be authorised to seek a meeting with representatives of the Parochial Church Council, football club and cricket club to determine how best to ensure that it remains an asset to the community. Among the matters to be considered would be who should be responsible for meeting the cost of renting and mowing the field in 2006 and beyond.

15/06 – PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The Chairman apologised that she had not made progress on identifying a suitable candidate to fill the vacant Councillor position since the last meeting. She would address the issue in the coming weeks and report on progress to the Council's March meeting.

16/06 – LISTED BUILDINGS

The Clerk informed members that English Heritage had written to say that the Council's applications for the Old Forge (village cricket pavilion) and the telephone box at Gospel Green to be listed had been turned down. The Secretary of State's decision is still awaited regarding the Victorian post box in the wall outside Orchard Cottage.

17/06 – CORRESPONDENCE

1. Flooding Survey. Chichester DC has again requested the Council to contribute to its annual winter flood survey. Members decided to consider at the March meeting the instances of local flooding that should be reported.

2. Waste disposal. With landfill no longer considered acceptable, West Sussex CC was consulting on new solutions for dealing with the ever-growing quantity of waste generated within the county. It had asked that Parish residents be informed of the consultation (deadline: 31 January 2006) and that self-completion forms and Freepost reply envelopes were available at libraries, Help Points and council offices.

3. Standards of conduct in local government. The Clerk reported that the Government had issued a discussion paper setting out changes to the rules on the conduct of councillors and their

officials. The proposed changes were unlikely, however, to impinge upon the day-to-day life of the Parish Council.

3. Other letters received gave notice of the various meetings, including the following: North West Frontier Community Forum (Midhurst: 7 December 2005), the North Chichester County Local Committee (Midhurst: 14 December 2005) and the Chichester Voluntary Community Sector Forum (Swanfield Community Centre, Chichester: 23 January 2006).

18/06 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Website. Dr Tate reported that the amount of material on the Council website continued to increase – the latest addition was the Parish Newsletter. As a result perhaps, the number of “hits” registered by the site continued to grow. This was very encouraging.

19/06 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Thursday, 9 March 2006.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.02 pm.