

## LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 9 March 2006**

*The meeting was preceded by a presentation and question and answer session conducted by Mr Austin Wade, Chichester DC's Rural Housing Enabler, on the provision of affordable housing in the Chichester District.*

*Present:* Mrs A Martin-Jenkins (Chairman), Mr R T Baker, Mr R E J Cooper, Mr J R Court, Mr G Sharp, 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.

In opening the meeting, the Chairman proposed, and the Members agreed, to add to the agenda an item 35A/06 on Listed Buildings.

#### 20/06 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

#### 21/06 - CODE OF CONDUCT

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

#### 22/06 - MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

#### 23/06 – MATTERS ARISING

Highways. The Clerk met the County Highways Department (HD) on 31 January to discuss the concerns raised during January's Open Forum (item 5/06). The HD had spoken to the various builders about the damage being done to the verges on Roundhurst Lane and The Quell by cars and lorries associated with the construction works taking place there with a view to getting assurances that, after completion, they would reinstate the verges. The problem of flooding from overflowing ditches on Roundhurst Lane would, hopefully, be eased now that they had been dug out by the HD. The culvert just south of the Jobsons Lane/Jays Lane junction had been checked and found to be clear of blockages. The HD had cut back the overhanging branches and hedges along Jobsons Lane from Beard's Cottage to Jays Lane as a result of complaints received and had spoken to the contractors about the potential for the hedges recently planted outside the new fence at Orchard Cottage to grow into a traffic hazard. The HD did not consider any action needed to be taken regarding hedges and branches along Jays Lane. The National Trust Ranger had reached a similar conclusion regarding the roadside hedges and trees at Roundhurst for which the Trust was responsible.

#### 24/06 – OPEN FORUM

A member of the public drew attention to the slippery tarmac outside Northhurst Farm. The Chairman recalled that the HD said resurfacing would take place in May 2006 (see 9/06, paragraph 2). Another member of the public asked for an update on the Woodcraft Folk site at Park Farm. The Chairman said that, after some delay, Chichester DC was seeking an Article 4 direction to bring the site back under local planning control. The Woodcraft Folk in their turn had applied to DEFRA for a new exemption certificate.

## 25/06 – COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Mr Moffatt's report (see Annex A) was read out by the Clerk.

## 26/06 – 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. Village Hall notice boards. On the basis of a recommendation by the Village Hall Management Committee, the Council decided to order from Gerald Whitaker Signs, Hollycombe, an external notice board for the wall beside the hall's side door as well as a small wooden plaque to cover the Booking Secretary's telephone number on the main notice board and to meet the cost of £160 + VAT.

3. Appeals for donations. Members decided to make the following donations, totalling £125:

West Sussex Rural Mobile Youth Trust	-	£50
West Sussex Association for the Blind (4Sight)	-	£20
Chichester and District Citizens Advice Bureau	-	£20
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)	-	£20
Sussex County Playing Fields Association	-	£15

## 27/06 – PLANNING

### 1. **Applications**

Three planning applications had been made since the Parish Council's last meeting. The first two listed below had already been considered by the Planning Committee; it had no comment on or objections to the proposals. The third proposal had yet to be considered.

#### LG/06/00117/DOM: MEADOWSIDE, THE GREEN

Two storey extension to north side

#### LG/06/00119/LBC: MEADOWSIDE, THE GREEN

Two storey extension to north side

#### LG/06/00621/FUL: JAYS FARM, JAYS LANE

Change of use of existing 2 storey barn and associated single storey outbuildings into 1 no. residential unit with attached annexe. Scheme also includes proposed removal of an existing dilapidated Milking Parlour with replacement 3 bay garage and various garden machinery and stores. New covered walkway to link garaging to main house

### 2. **Decisions**

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

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

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

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

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

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

NO OBJECTION

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)

PERMIT

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

Part demolition and rebuilding of existing house

PERMIT

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

PERMIT

LG/06/00061/DOM: 36 GREENGATES

Single garage to side of house to be changed to utility room and playroom/study (Variation of condition 5 of LG/99/01625/DOM)

PERMIT

**3. Other planning related issues**

1. Former Blackdown Mission. The Clerk reported that the National Trust had informed him it was investigating the ownership of the outbuilding to the south of the Chapel.
2. 46 Greengates. The Clerk was asked to check whether planning permission had been obtained for a conservatory at 46 Greengates and, if it had not, he was asked to check with the CDC Planning Department whether permission should have been obtained.

28/06 – HIGHWAYS

Broken bridges. The Clerk reported that the South Downs Joint Committee (SDJC) had replaced the two broken footbridges at the point near Hillgrove where footpaths 2034 and 2029 meet with substantial new ones.

29/06 – ALLOTMENTS

1. Allotment holders. The Clerk reported that since the last meeting, two further plots had been taken by parishioners, bringing the total to 14 out of 23. All plot holders had paid their fees for 2006.
2. Fencing. The condition of the post and rail fence along part of the western side of the allotments was discussed. The assessment of Mr Sharp and Mr Court was that many of the posts were rotten and that a number of the rails were beyond repair. It would be a waste of time to try to patch them up. The Chairman noted that, as no budgetary provision had been made for extensive work on the fence this year, major repairs might have to wait till 2007. The Members agreed that the Clerk should approach the Leconfield Estates to see if they would be prepared to give the Council two dozen posts or so and thereby reduce the cost.

30/06 – VILLAGE LITTER BINS

New arrangements. The Council approved new arrangements for the emptying of the two litter bins on the Green and the one at the playground. It was agreed that, with effect from 1 April 2006, the litter from these three bins should be collected weekly throughout the year under a

contract with Chichester DC. The Council instructed the Clerk to take the necessary action and to convey its thanks to Mr T Redding for his years of service as Litter Warden.

#### 31/06 – PLAYGROUND

1. Mowing. The Council agreed that (as in 2005) Mr Redding should be invited to mow the playground fortnightly from 1 April to 31 October 2006 (13 mowings). In addition, he should (a) if requested, carry out a further mowing in October 2006 if, like last year, the grass continued to grow strongly into the autumn, (b) level any molehills in the play area and, as necessary, sweep the padded impact surfaces clean of mud; and (d) when in the village, clear any litter from the village bus shelter and place it in the nearest litter bin. For this work, the Council agreed to increase Mr Redding's fee to £240.

2. New fencing. The Clerk reported that updated estimates had been received from the three firms that provided quotations for a replacement fence. An application for a discretionary leisure grant would be submitted to Chichester DC before the next application deadline (provisionally set for 23 May 2006).

3. New table. Mr Court reported that the new table had now been fixed to the ground. Members expressed their thanks to him for carrying out this work.

#### 32/06 – FLOODING SURVEY

Winter flooding. Members agreed that the report to the Chichester DC should refer to the following incidents of local flooding: (a) south of The Chimes on Blind Lane; (b) at the bridge over the River Lod at Lickfold; (c) at Jack Fisher's brook in Jobsons Lane; and (d) on the bend in Jobsons Lane just south of Orchard Cottage. Clerk to reply.

#### 33/06 - FOOTBALL FIELD

The Chairman reported that the Parochial Church Council (PCC) agreed with the Parish Council about the importance of retaining the football pitch for the benefit of the parish and that it had asked the Diocesan Solicitors for a copy of the lease so as to check the exact nature of the commitments and restrictions entailed. Also, the Fete Committee's AGM had agreed that it would look favourably, at the distribution meeting, on an application for funds to help ensure that the field was maintained in good condition.

#### 34/06 – YOUNG DRIVERS' SKILLS COURSES

Grants for 2006-07. Members agreed to offer financial support to a number of young residents of the Parish on the driving skills course sponsored by West Sussex CC. As in 2005, applications should be invited through the Parish Newsletter. Clerk to act.

#### 35/06 – PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The Chairman reported that she was holding discussions with one possible candidate.

#### 35A/06 – LISTED BUILDINGS

Victorian post box. The Clerk informed Members that English Heritage had written to say that the Council's application for the post box in the wall outside Orchard Cottage to be listed had been turned down. Members decided not to seek a review of the decision.

#### 36/06 – CORRESPONDENCE

1. Telephone box on the Green. In February, whilst dealing with a number of complaints about faulty equipment and broken panes of glass in the village Green telephone box, BT had informed the Clerk that the box had not yet been converted to "coinless"; when it was, clear instructions would be placed in the box.

2. Highways and transport works. The Council had received the WSCC's draft highways and transport works programme for 2006-07 and its outline proposals for 2007-08. Nothing relating directly to Lurgashall appeared in either list.
3. County Strategy 2005-09. The Council had been sent a copy of the strategy that sets out WSCC's priorities and planned outcomes up to 2009.
4. Rural support. The Council had been informed of a WSCC "mapping exercise" aimed at getting a snapshot, from Action in Rural Sussex, Environment Agency and SDJC among others, of activities within the county that deliver rural support services.
5. Avian flu. WSCC had provided the Chairman with details of persons to contact and advice to give in the event of enquiries by parishioners about a suspected outbreak of avian flu in the parish.
6. Parish Spring Clean Day 2006. As in previous years, Chichester DC had written informing the Council of its entitlement to safety equipment and litter collection arrangements as part of a parish spring cleaning day.
7. Other letters received gave notice of the following meetings: North Chichester County Local Committee (Petworth Primary School: 29 March 2006; Local Development Framework (East Pallant House, Chichester:16 May 2006 and 25 January 2007) and North West Frontier Community Forum (The Grange, Midhurst: 15 March 2006).

37/06 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Dog fouling. Members agreed a proposal by the Chairman that a note should be placed in the Parish Newsletter requesting parishioners to take more care to ensure their dogs do not roam free and foul the village green. Clerk to act.
2. Youth activities. Mr Court drew attention to the frustration felt by some young boys in the village about their lack of access to activities, such as skateboarding.

38/06 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting, which will take place on Thursday, 11 May 2006, will be the combined Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Council.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 pm.

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