

DRAFT
*To be confirmed
at next meeting*

LAMBERHURST PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held
at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8th January 2019

Members Present	Cllr Denis Cruse	DC
	Cllr John Uren	JU
	Cllr Rolf Smith	RS
	Cllr Sam Nicholas	SN
	Cllr David Hurst-Brown	DHB
	Cllr John Francis	JF
	Cllr Steve Cannella	SC

In Attendance	Parish Clerk – Barbara Uren	BU
	Sarah Hamilton – County Cllr	SH
	Minutes Secretary – John Mottershead	JM
	No members of the public at this meeting	

1 Apologies for absence: EH

2 Declarations of interest:

In accordance with the Current Members' Code of Conduct in respect of items on this agenda. There were none

3 To approve minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th November 2018 No corrections were moved. The Minutes were proposed by SN and seconded by DHB – all approved.

4 Matters arising from those minutes.

Page 1 DC – Fairfield site - no news so far.
A discussion about Cllr Hastie's offer of a bench produced suggestions of locations on the Down and at the allotments, especially the proposed Community allotment. The Clerk would write to Cllr Hastie to inform him of current thinking
DC welcomed SH
He asked SH if she would be happy for Streetwise to carry out the highway surveys discussed previously, as recommended by Fiona Paine at KCC? SH agreed she was. The council was asked whether it was also happy for the Streetwise surveys to proceed? All agreed.

Wished our thanks to SH, be recorded for funding these surveys.

Page 2 Any other questions for SH? (There were none).
Page 3 Village clock – Any progress? Nothing to report at present.
Page 4 No response about the vegetation on Farthing Lane?
DC - Do we need to replace the notice board removed from the former butcher's shop in a more prominent position and if so, where? Does the board on the Down need some renovation? Cllrs to consider possibilities and discuss as an item for the agenda for March discussion.

5 Accounts: 2019/2020 Budget & Precept

The RFO – Presented an overview of the budget for 2019

Asked if the council felt we should use some of our reserves for this year when paying for special expenditure such as the Neighbourhood Plan and grants to the WMH. Cllrs felt that this was appropriate

A discussion ensued about next year's budget, given projected cost increases in the Council's regular expenditure. With a few amendments to the draft the budget was approved. An increase to the precept was proposed for £45,000, which is an increase of around 6.5%, by the RFO seconded by DC. All were in favour.

DC – Thanked the RFO and the finance group for their work on this budget.

6 Common Land & Allotments:

There have been a couple of complaints about the drive alongside the doctor's surgery. The CL group would visit and suggest repairs. DC - Suggests that the clerk write to the three households concerned.

Nothing to report on the allotments.

7 Correspondence:

1. Bowls Club – We will consider funding but for such requests we have always asked organisations for a copy of their latest accounts beforehand. The clerk will write to them advising that we need to do this and we will consider their request thereafter.
2. UK power networks: concern expressed about the state of the footpath and how well it needs to be re-instated. The Clerk will inform them of our concerns, but it was suggested that they talk also to the Kent public right of way authorities.
3. Complaint from a motorist about build-outs: SH asked for this to be forwarded to her.
4. Community Safety information would be useful for noticeboards and website. Clerk to reply yes please.
5. No areas requiring grant applications to Sussex Lund were identified – but to be kept in mind.

8 Planning:

No questions were raised to the Planning group concerning its recommendations. DC asked whether any action was being taken regarding enforcement of the restoration works at Peppermills? A query concerning felling of woodland near Furnace Farm Cottages arose and whether the Council should check for the existence of an appropriate felling licence? SN to draft an email for the Clerk to send to the BC.

9 Representative/Sub Group Reports:

Neighbourhood Plan: See item 10

Parish Chairman: meeting on 11th December which was attended by DC:

- a) New refuse contract starts in March with services being phased in. Garden waste collection will be an opt-in service (to be paid for) using the TWBC website. Residents without internet access or use can telephone for advice.
- b) 1st October start date for the Town Plan was announced
- c) Nick Peeters (engagement officer replacing Mike McGeary) willing to attend PC meetings if invited (as are other officers)
- d) KCC Cllrs Mike Whiting (Cabinet member for Highways) is willing to be informed about our concerns over traffic calming. DC asked SH whether he should apprise him of the surveys about to be carried out – she thought it would be helpful. DC to write.

10 Neighbourhood Plan:

SN reported that the Housing Needs survey is going out this week. There will be another family workshop held this Saturday (12th) with a view to connecting with younger families.

Following training in this area; the next step will be to start writing the plan.

DHB – Suggested that as many Councillors as are able attend a training meeting at the Town Hall on Tuesday 26th February at 10:30

The Chairman formally recorded the councils' thanks to everyone involved with the NP for their work to date.

11. Matters of urgency at Chairman's discretion:

After a short debate on the options for borough council elections DC asked for councillors views, and the majority were for election by thirds as at present rather than all at once.

SH – Left at this point and was thanked by DC for her attendance.

12. EXEMPT ITEMS

See separate sheet

Meeting closed at 21:15