

LAMBERHURST PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th March 2017

Members present:

Cllr Denis Cruse	DC
Cllr John Uren	JU
Cllr John Francis	JF
Cllr Steve Cannella	SC
Cllr Clive Stott	CS
Cllr Sam Nicholas	SN
Cllr David Hurst-Brown	DHB
Cllr Rolf Smith	RS
Cllr Bernard Bryant	BB
Borough Cllr Edmund Hastie	EH

In attendance:

Barbara Uren (Parish Clerk)	BU
Chris Hamilton (Minutes Secretary)	CH

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the councillors and those in attendance to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

DC declared an interest in the item regarding the Paddock Wood Advice Centre

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 10TH JANUARY

The minutes were approved with the following amendments:

1. **Page 3, Item 9:** “*See item 12*” should read “*see item 10*”
2. **Page 4, Item 11, line 5:** “*Tuesday 26*” should read “*Tuesday 18*”

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 8TH NOVEMBER

Pg.1 HMO, Hopgarden Close.

Nothing further had been heard regarding the status of the house.

Playground Signs

This matter was in hand but not yet been done

Pg. 2 Water Leak

There had been no further developments

Replacement Posts on the Down

The contractor had requested, this time for 76 longer lasting, chestnut posts at a total of £1638.40.

It was unanimously agreed to accept this quotation.

DC thanked all those councillors who had worked on this matter between meetings.

Hook Green Speed Limits

There had been no response yet from Greg Clark. BU would investigate further. EH suggested that the person to contact might be Matthew Dickens, his parliamentary aide.

Pg.3 Community Speedwatch Programme.

SN reported that she was to meet with **the** Speedwatch manager at the end of March. She had identified 10 volunteers. The equipment cost in the region of £2000 and 50% grants were available. However it was deemed preferable to borrow the equipment in the first instance and **try** it out before deciding whether to invest. DC knew of other parishes who had offered to lend the equipment. BU could provide email addresses as appropriate. SN would take advice from the police as to where the speedwatch should be carried out appropriately and safely. SN agreed to present a short report on this at the Annual Parish Meeting

Samaritans

JF had investigated and it was agreed that LPC would not support this well-funded charity at this time.

Planning – Court Lodge

Nothing further had been heard

Old School Clock

It was reported that the clock had stopped working. However, RS and JU had been involved in consultations with various interested parties and the matter was progressing.

Pg.4 Village Shop

The shop was now fully open and all were encouraged to use it as extensively as possible. The Post Office had reopened on Monday morning and was expected to run on Wednesday mornings too.

Pg.5 Liaison with Golf Club over Dog Poo Bins

RS had spoken with the Golf Club, who wished to work in tandem with LPC. LPC felt it had done what it could, providing signs on bins, notices and poo bag dispensers and could not be responsible for what happened on land it did not own. However it was agreed that this was a major issue on the playing fields. It was agreed that SN would research the cost of placing substantial, weatherproofed signs at the car park entrance to the cricket field and on the footpath through the Chequers garden and would bring these costs to the May meeting for discussion. If it was then considered desirable, the landlord of the Chequers would be approached for permission to erect these.

SN was keen to have an annual campaign, involving local school children who might design posters etc., to maintain awareness amongst dog walkers. It was agreed that this would be beneficial.

5. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR EDMUND HASTIE

EH referred the council to Borough Councillor David Elliott who was running a prize-winning campaign targeting dog mess. The council might find it helpful to contact him for further advice. Other officers might also be prepared to pay a site visit and help with a campaign.

EH felt that the council's question to parishioners: "Does Lamberhurst Need a Neighbourhood Plan?" should be rephrased as a positive statement that it does. He felt strongly that this was the opportunity for the parish to have a say in future development, especially with regard to housing, where not only the locations, but also the type and style of development could be decided.

EH was happy to come and talk and invite other experts. The council should see the APM meeting as a platform for signing up volunteers. DHB explained that the council had been working with a Neighbourhood Planning Consultant, Jim Boot, and that this was indeed the focus of the APM.

However, the council felt that it was important that this was parishioner - led rather than council - led. It was younger members of the community who would be affected by these long term decisions.

EH added that consultation needed to start as soon as possible, to show a sound evidence base. LPC would need to be involved at the top if plans were to be accepted.

EH asked how the council would feel about a charge being made to each household of £30 per annum for brown bin recycling. Councillors felt strongly that if the borough council needed to charge more for this facility it should be done through a rise in council tax. Any other charge would be seen as double taxation. All agreed that this idea was both economically and socially unsound.

EH reported his intention to ask borough councillor Barry Noakes to award his unspent member's grant to Lamberhurst Cinema.

EH had agreed with the borough council that any item of significant public interest might be called in. If the council wished to do so, either he or Barry Noakes should be informed.

DC thanked EH for his continued help with parish matters.

6. ACCOUNTS

(See Appendix 1)

JF presented the accounts for payment and these were approved.

7. COMMON LAND AND ALLOTMENTS

JU reported that all invoices for licences etc. had been sent out and everything was in order.

SN had spoken with the new landlord at the Elephants Head regarding the piece of common land in front of the pub where the pub sign stood. BU confirmed that if he wished to mow and tidy this area he had permission to do so.

DHB reported that he was to attend a meeting on the following Saturday regarding coppicing and land management.

SN drew the council's attention to the Sussex Lund grants programme. This supported small-scale, practical projects that improved the ecology and landscape of the High Weald. Charities, community groups, schools, churches, councils, farmers, landowners and indeed anyone with a good idea could apply for grants of between £500 and £10,000.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Item CPRE - The Rural Coffee and Information Project:

1 This information was noted and would be highlighted in the *Parish Magazine* and on the Village Website.

Item War Memorial Hall Managers – Offer to renew public conveniences 2 licence for 2017/18 on the same terms as before.

This was agreed.

Item War Memorial Hall Managers – Request for LPC to purchase an 3 engraved post code label for the defibrillator.

This was unanimously agreed

Item 4 Fly a Flag for Commonwealth Day – to be raised at 10am on Monday 13th March.

It was reported that this occasion had unfortunately been missed and should be highlighted for the following year. It was further agreed that the union flag should be raised each year with the changing of the clocks in March and lowered after Armistice Day in November. JU and CS would take charge of this.

Item 5 NALC – Section 137 Expenditure: Limit for 2017/18 - £7.32 per elector. (1249)

This was noted.

INFORMATION

Item 1 South East Water – Open day – Bewl Water Treatment Works – Saturday 6 May at 10am – Ticket only. Tel: 01732 375410 – Email: southeastwater.co.uk/opendays – to book.

Councillors who had attended on previous occasions recommended this highly.

Item 2 KALC – The Govt. “Better Broadband Subsidy Scheme” Grants available up to £350 for households & business's with a speed of less than 2Mb per second Weblink <http://basicbroadbandchecker.culture.gov.uk/> CH would highlight this on the village website

LATE ITEMS

Item 1 Kent Air Ambulance: request for grant of £250 from LPC.

This was agreed unanimously

Item 2 Paddock Wood Advice Centre – request to renew payment for parish magazine advertisement for 2017-18 . (DC expressed an interest and abstained from the vote. The item was passed to the vice-chairman during the discussion)

It was agreed that this should be paid. JF would pay it in April

**9. PLANNING
17/00450**

The Oast House, Town Hill

JU wished to draw councillors' attention to this application. The original application, involving 2 additional dwellings, was passed last year. Various amendments had been made. This further application was to replace the approved double garage with a single storey dwelling. It was felt that the old drains would not be able to cope with the additional load, that there were highway safety concerns and there would be an adverse impact on neighbours. LPC had objected.

10. REPRESENTATIVES/ SUB- GROUPS REPORTS

War Memorial Hall

JU reported that the managers had met several times to look at hall improvements that would include refurbishment of kitchen, shower and toilet areas, replacement of external doors, and the reconfiguring of space to extend storage possibilities. A specification and drawings were now needed in order to take this forward for quotations and grant applications. The managers asked

if LPC might provide the funds for this. It was unanimously agreed that the RFO and the clerk be authorised to give the hall committee up to £1000 for this purpose.

Bewl Water

(see item 11)

Playing Fields

Nothing further to report

Playground

SC and CS were to meet together again, on site, to look at the issue of the footpath near the playground in order to take this forward.

Buses/Transport

Nothing to report

Police

Nothing to report

Highways

It was reported that a flashing speed sign was being installed on School Hill.

Footpaths

Nothing further to report

Flooding

Nothing to report

Housing

Nothing to report.

Common Land

Nothing further to report

Events

Nothing to report

KALC

Nothing to report

Parish Chairman

The meeting was taking place on the same evening.

Business

Nothing further to report

Website

Nothing to report.

School

It was felt that the council had done all that it could to help with parking issues in Pearse Place. The school should now continue to focus on persuading parents to behave responsibly and respectfully towards residents.

11. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The APM would take place on April 18th at 7.30pm, setting up at 6.30pm. SN was dealing with the publicity. The cost of printing was estimated at £135 and refreshments at £100. It was agreed that DHB and SN could spend up to £300 for this purpose. Thanks were extended to all those involved in setting up this meeting.

12. BEWL WATER PLANS

DHB reported on a meeting that had taken place earlier that day. The following issues were still felt to be of real concern:

- There was a significant danger to cyclists, walkers and equestrians using Bewl Bridge Lane
- Regarding sewage (permission from Southern Water had not yet been

granted) the intention was to connect the 58 dwellings in question to the main sewer in Lamberhurst

DHB reported that there was some feeling that the applicants had no intention of carrying out the work themselves but were rather building up a stock of business opportunities for selling on.

DHB further reported that Ticehurst Parish Council had objected to the scheme and had prefaced their objection with the comment that there was no established need for more tourism in the area. It was agreed that this was not necessarily the case and that this was hard to quantify. Their other points were supported, however.

The application could lead to a Bewl Water that no longer slept at night and could expand significantly on sites which were not really brownfield land.

DHB recommended that LPC should object to this application on the grounds of loss of tranquillity, waste treatment concerns and danger on the surrounding lanes. Councillors were asked to let the clerk know if they wanted her to include any other concerns.

13. MATTERS OF URGENCY AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

Richard Neame Local Wildlife Bronze Award

DC showed councillors a certificate for the Richard Neame Local Wildlife Bronze Award which had been awarded to the LPC, via SN, for work at the gravel pit. It was agreed that BU, JU and CS in particular deserved credit for their work in liaising with the High Weald Partnership over this project.

Letter of Thanks from David Ham

David Ham had written to thank LPC for his award on retiring from the running of the Lamberhurst Music Festival

14. EXEMPT ITEMS

See separate sheet.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

