

**LAMBERHURST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd May 2017**

**Members present:**

Cllr Denis Cruse	DC
Cllr John Uren	JU
Cllr John Francis	JF
Cllr Steve Cannella	SC
Cllr Clive Stott	CS
Cllr Rolf Smith	RS
Cllr Sam Nicholas	SN
Cllr David Hurst Brown	DHB

**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. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE – CHAIRMAN**  
DHB nominated DC as Chairman. This was seconded by CS and unanimously agreed. DC duly signed the acceptance of the role of chairman  
RS nominated JU as Vice- Chairman. This was seconded by SC and all were in favour. JU duly signed his acceptance.
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
There were none
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
There were none
- 4. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS, SUB-GROUPS AND REPRESENTATIVES**  
There were no changes to the 2016/2017 list. See Appendix 1.
- 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 14TH MARCH 2017 AND APM OF 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**  
**Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> March**  
There was one amendment. In exempt items “*Graham Beech*” should read “*Graham Beach*”  
**Minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> April**  
There were no amendments  
Both sets of minutes were duly approved.
- 6. MATTERS ARISING**
  - A. From Minutes of 14th March**
    - Pg. 1 Water Leak**  
BU reported that FT had been given a revised letter. JF was concerned that this letter had allowed for payment in instalments but had not reduced the sum payable. The clerk would pursue this.

- Pg.2 Hook Green Speed Limits**  
 Nothing had been heard from Greg Clark.  
 Officers from KCC wished to arrange a meeting with the parish council on site at Hook Green. BU would pursue the matter.  
**Community Speedwatch Programme**  
 SN was waiting for training dates and equipment availability to be clarified. She reported that there were 6 enthusiastic volunteers ready to carry out the work.  
**Old School Clock**  
 Negotiations in this matter were progressing.  
**Dog Poo Bins**  
 BU passed to CH a copy of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act. CH would bring this to the attention of the public via the parish magazine and the village website.
- Pg. 3 Common Land – Coppicing**  
 DHB reported that a meeting had taken place with Julian Miller who had agreed to re-measure and come back to the council. DHB would contact him.
- Pg.4 Payments to Air Ambulance and to Paddock Wood Advice Centre**  
 JF reported that these payments had been made.  
**Planning**  
 It was reported that the application for the single storey building at the Oast House, Town Hill had been refused.
- Pg.5 Bewl Water**  
 DHB reported that people were still objecting despite the deadline for objections having passed. There was no further news.  
**Playground path**  
 SC agreed that this work would be carried out very soon.
- Pg.7 See exempt items.**

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **B. From the APM of 18<sup>th</sup> April**

There were none. The Neighbourhood Plan would be discussed later.

- 7. ACCOUNTS**  
 The RFO explained that expenditure was under budget. The work on the public conveniences had not yet begun and expenditure on land management had been lower than expected. Reserves had therefore grown although expenditure on these items was still anticipated.  
 JU asked if some of the money in the playground fund might be used to fund the work on the path. As a sum had been set aside for maintenance and the problem with the narrow path had been created as a result of the playground extension it was agreed that this was reasonable.  
**Annual Return**
- 7a** The RFO presented a document detailing the system of internal control, which was accepted by the council.
- 7b** JF read the Annual Governance Statement and related it to the practices of LPC. It received the approval of the council, at which point the chairman and the clerk signed the statement.
- 7c** The council considered the Accounting Statements in section 2 of the Annual Report together with the detailed accounts of which they were a summary. (DHB asked if there might be an issue with the amount of reserves. JF agreed

that the sum was more than twice the precept. However the internal report had been signed by the internal auditor, Samantha Wells, and JF had provided a detailed explanation of variances (and high reserves).

**7d** The council resolved to approve the Accounting Statements

**7e** The chairman signed the Accounting Statements

**7f** JF proposed that Miss Samantha Wells be re - appointed external auditor. All agreed.

**7g** The Clerk would post the information on the public notice board during the period of exercise of the public right to examine the accounts.

DC thanked JF for his work in dealing with the Annual Report and for keeping the accounts.

*JF left the meeting at this point*

## **8. PLANNING**

### **16/07348 Court Lodge**

No decision had as yet been made.

### **17/00063 Daisy Lodge Hangar**

Despite LPC's objection, the application at the Airfield had been granted but this was not considered a matter for concern. The objection had been mostly on the grounds of highway safety and highways had passed the application.

Other planning applications were noted.

### **Application for the building of 23 dwellings on land adjacent to Hoggarden Place.**

This was for dwellings of different sizes, up to 5 bedrooms, and 7 affordable homes. There were a number of reasons why this application might not be granted. The area was outside the limits to built development and in the Teise valley special landscape area. Traffic was an issue in Brewer Street and the approach to the new development would be over the parish-council owned allotment drive. The land had agricultural restrictions. BU was granted the approval of the council to contact the solicitor to seek information from the Land Registry.

DC asked if any councillors were in favour of the application. RS felt that a proposal for fewer dwellings, perhaps on the former car park area adjacent to the land in question, could be acceptable. SN agreed that the application as it stood should be rejected but this did not mean the land could not or should not be developed. It was agreed that councillors should visit the site and pass on their comments before the 17<sup>th</sup> May deadline.

## **9. CORRESPONDENCE**

All items were noted, with comment on the following:

### **Consultations (2) TWBC Local Plan Issues and Options**

There were to be 4 opportunities for councillors to visit an exhibition of the plans. The information would be the same as that in the documents pack which BU had collected but there would be officers on hand to answer questions.

### **Kent County Council LED Street Lighting Project**

SN had some environmental concerns. BU reported that she had merely registered an interest before the deadline was reached to do so and there would be an appropriate time to bring these up.

## 10. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

### **Playground Group**

Nothing to report

### **War Memorial Hall**

It was reported that a sub-committee of the Hall Managers had met with an architect to discuss major refurbishments and alterations to the hall, including the possibility of two rooms above the back rooms, refurbished and modified shower arrangements at the back, provision of extra storage areas, new external doors and refurbished toilets and kitchen. The process had begun and was in its initial stages.

### **Bewl Water**

Nothing further to report

### **Playing fields**

Nothing further to report

### **Buses/Transport**

Nothing to report

### **Police**

Nothing to report

### **Highways**

Nothing to report

### **Footpaths**

Nothing further to report

### **Flooding**

Nothing to report

### **Housing**

Nothing to report.

### **Common Land**

JU updated councillors on the issues at a property where common land regulations had been breached. This was taking time but in hand. Some rents were still outstanding and the clerk was pursuing these.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

See next item

### **Events**

Nothing to report

### **KALC**

Nothing to report

### **Business**

Nothing to report

### **Website**

Nothing to report.

### **School**

Nothing further to report

### **MP Liaison**

Nothing to report

### **Local Board**

Nothing to report

### **Parish Chairmen**

Nothing to report

**11. LOCAL AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The discussion began with consideration of the Local Plan consultation. This was offering 5 possible models for housing development and open to suggestions for further models. SN, JU and BU had all attended Local Plan meetings. SN reported that, following the answers given in a survey, the village had been listed as “Group B”, a listing which could see the size of the village increase dramatically under certain of the 5 options. SN felt strongly that the data used to inform the listing was insufficient: that the constraints of the location had not been taken into account e.g. flood risks. SN felt that without correct statistics and information none of the options was acceptable. She did however feel that the plans were starting with very high numbers of new houses and that the figure was likely to be much lower, given the constraints of finding sites and of building development in general. Other councillors voiced their agreement with this.

Councillors felt that there should be no development which could not be sustained by the current infrastructure: communications, transport, employment prospects etc. should be taken into account and, where necessary, developed in tandem with building.

Councillors agreed that it would be helpful to establish what percentage increase in dwellings was anticipated. For example, in option B (Dispersed Growth), where development distribution would be proportional across all the borough’s settlements, a 30% increase could mean over 200 new homes in Lamberhurst between 2013 and 2030. SC pointed out, as a point of reference, that in the last 20 years there had been about 50 new homes built in the village. Opinion amongst councillors was divided about which might be the best option. It was agreed that councillors should meet on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm, in the War Memorial Hall, to discuss the Local Plan consultation in more detail. BU had sent an email with links to all the relevant documents and the information was also available on the website. Councillors were asked to look carefully at these so that an informed decision could be made on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Councillors then turned their attention to the Neighbourhood Plan and how to move forward with this. Jim Boot had suggested that such a plan would take about two years to complete. There was concern as to whether it would be published in time to inform the local plan. However, it was agreed that it was important to go through the Neighbourhood Plan process and SN agreed to try to arrange a meeting with Kelvin Hilton, Planning and Policy Officer at TWBC, as a first step.

**12. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR / ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were none

**13. EXEMPT ITEMS**

See separate page.

**The meeting closed at 9.15 pm**



## APPENDIX 1

### LAMBERHURST PARISH COUNCIL 2017/18 OFFICERS, SUB GROUPS & REPRESENTATIVES

**PROPER OFFICER:** The Clerk

**RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER:** John Francis

**MINUTES SECRETARY:** Christina Hamilton

#### **SUB GROUPS:**

**COMMON LAND/ALLOTMENTS:** *(With Authority to expend up to £500. + £1,500 in an emergency after consultation with Chairman or Clerk):* Cllrs. John Uren, David Hurst Brown, Rolf Smith, Bernard Bryant. Sam Nicholas, Clive Stott & the Clerk

**PLANNING:** Cllrs. John Uren, Rolf Smith, David Hurst Brown, Steve Cannella

**FINANCE:** RFO John Francis, Cllrs. David Hurst-Brown, Denis Cruse, John Uren & the Clerk

#### **EVENTS LIAISON:**

Cllrs. Sam Nicholas, David Hurst Brown, Clive Stott & Rolf Smith c/o Ian Mephram

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING** – Cllrs. David Hurst Brown, John Francis, Sam Nicholas & Denis Cruse

**RECREATION FACILITIES:** Cllrs. R Smith, J Uren, S. Cannella

#### **REPRESENTATIVES**

**War Memorial Hall** – Cllr. Rolf Smith

**Police** – The Clerk

**Highways** – Cllr. Rolf Smith and the Clerk

**Housing** – The Clerk, Cllr Bernard Bryant *c/o Barbara Twiss (T & C Housing Rep.)*

**Bowl** - Cllr David Hurst Brown

**Footpaths** – The Clerk.

**Businesses** – Cllr. David Hurst - Brown

**Flooding** – Cllr. Denis Cruse

**KALC** – Chairman, Clerk & all councillors.

**MP Liaison** – Cllr Denis Cruse

**Website** – c/o Christina Hamilton

**Brewer Street Allotments** – *c/o Gerry & Peter Thraves (Non Cllrs)*

**Common Land & Tree Warden** – *c/o – Mark Lawton*

Tree Watchers - Christina Hamilton – *Hook Green, Free Heath*

Mick Watkins – *The Down and Gravel Pit*

