

LAMBERHURST PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.30pm
In the War Memorial Hall Lamberhurst

Members present:

Cllr John Uren (Vice Chairman)	JU
Cllr Steve Cannella	SC
Cllr Tim Cornick	TC
Cllr Clive Stott	CS
Cllr Dawn Beeby	DB
Cllr Rolf Smith	RS

In attendance:

Tracie Dodd	Clerk/RFO
Cllr David Knight TWBC	DK
Andrew Dean	AD
2 members of the Public	

Welcome

The Vice Chairman welcome the Attendees and Councillors.

Andrew Dean signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed onto Lamberhurst Parish Council taking the position of David Hurst Brown.

1. Questions from the Public:

A dog behaviour specialist reported that he would be quite happy to help parishioners of Lamberhurst village to engage in his experience of handling dogs in open spaces.
Cllr Beeby to pursue.

19.52 Members of the Public left the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Samantha Nicolas	SN
Cllr Graham White (Chairman)	GW

3. Declaration of interest:

There were none.

Cllr Knight reported that Tunbridge Wells Brough Council had finalised there 22/23, being only 1% of local Councils in the County to complete on time.

The Forecast for 2023/24 had currently reported a deficit of £943K but had been greatly reduced to £200k deficit this is largely due to the Staff Vacancies that have yet to be filled.

Town Square company have started the conversion at the Town Hall in Tunbridge Wells to create office space.

Cllr Webster sent her apologies but had forwarded Paul's Informal Guide to Planning Permission for distribution among the Planning Sub Committee.

Cllr Smith raised the problem with Litter between the Forstal Farm roundabout and Kipping's Cross.

Cllr Beeby challenged the planning decision by TWBC regarding the retrospective decision made for Court Lodge.

It was agreed that LPC would request how TWBC had come to these decisions on granting these applications.

4. Approval of minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th September 2023.

Were Approved

5. Update from those minutes:

There were None.

6. Accounts:

Were noted and approved.

Payments over £500.00 since last meeting.

£1056.33 – Grass Cutting
£675.00 – Grass Cutting
£3630.00 – Tree Maintenance
£500.00 – Public Toilets (Dec 23)
£7866.50 – 3-month Tree Maintenance
£1979.46 - Annual Insurance

Precept:

The RFO presented the Precepts and Tax Base to the Council.

It was agreed unanimously that the precept for the Parish would increase by 5% for 2024/25.

The increase in the precept is largely due to Tree Maintenance payments to date of £21,600 this is for the initial Tree Maintenance survey and also the tree works that have been carried out so far and a further £6,000.00 for works yet to be carried out. Looking at the accounts 2023/24 the projected shortfall carried forward is £5,500 with an estimated excess carried forward in 2024/25 of £13,200. The tree survey is carried out every 3 years by 2027 our excess carried forward will be able to absorb the next Tree maintenance/works.

We still remain one of the lowest Parishes in the brough being 3rd lowest to Benenden and Frittenden.

7. Planning:

Were noted and approved.

It was agreed that a reminder of planning regulations be advertised in the Lamberhurst Parish Magazine.

8. Subgroups and representatives

Common Land/Allotments/Street Furniture

Cllr Uren reported that the Lower Down had not been mowed due to weather conditions. Cllr Uren also reported that there were water problems at the junction of Free Heath Road this has been reported to KCC Highways.

The Signage for the Chequers Field was on-going.

Noticeboards to be replace at the Lower Down and Hook Green were to be ordered and erected these will largely be funded by the UKSPF Community Grants Programme. A budget of £2,000.00 for these works were agreed (£1250.00 to come from UKSPF Community Grants Programme).

Allotment and Common Land rents will increase from March 2025 – to be agreed by Finance Sub-committee.

Metal Rod to be removed by the Youth Shelter.

Events:

Nothing to report.

Parish Website and communication:

Nothing to report.

HIP:

Cllr Beeby reported a pedestrian mirror had been erected opposite Down Avenue, but another pedestrian mirror was need by Kennards Pit.

20.31 Cllr Hamilton entered the meeting.

Cllr Hamilton reported that the Potholes and Road Markings were an on-going issue but were being addressed. Cllr Uren raised the issue of Road Markings especially by the Bayham Road Gateway.

9. Matters of Urgency at the Chairmans Discretion

There were none.

Meeting closed 20.35.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 12th March 2023 @ 7.30pm