

*DRAFT
To be approved
at next meeting*

**LAMBERHURST PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held in Lamberhurst War Memorial Hall (*Side Hall*)
on
Tuesday 14th January at 19:30**

Members present:

Cllr David Hurst Brown (Chair)	DHB
Cllr John Uren (Vice Chairman)	JU
Cllr John Francis (RFO)	JF
Cllr Rolf Smith	RS
Cllr Sam Nicholas	SN
Cllr Dawn Beeby	DB
Cllr Clive Stott	CS
Cllr Steve Cannella	SC
Cllr Denis Cruse	DC

In attendance:

Barbara Uren - LPC Clerk
John Mottershead - Minutes Sec.

3 no. Members of the Public

Welcome

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

Public Question Time:

There were none.

1. Apologies for absence:

There were none.

2. Declarations of interest:

There were none.

3. Approval of minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 12th & 19th November

12th Nov:

No amendments or changes. Minutes approved.

19th Nov:

No amendments or changes. Minutes approved.

4. Matters arising from the minutes: There were none

5. Accounts: Quarterly accounts and payments since the last meeting were approved.

At the November meeting of the Parish Council it was agreed to increase the parish precept (which is included within the Council Tax and collected from householders by TWBC) from £45,000 in 2019-20 to £49,000 in 2020-21 – an increase of 8.9%.

There has been a small increase in the tax base (the number of houses paying Council Tax) so that this translates to an increase of 7.6% in the charge to householders.

A dwelling in Band D pays £60.65 towards the parish precept this year, increasing to £65.24 next year; so the average increase is £4.59 per household.

The need for an increase has been driven by some significant non-recurring expenditure including the Neighbourhood Plan and repairs to the War Memorial Hall. Despite the increase, Lamberhurst's precept remains significantly below that of neighbouring parishes.

6. Common land & Allotments:

The Clerk was instructed to contact reluctant Common Land Licence holders and inform them that if fees are not paid within one month licences will be withdrawn and their use of the common land must cease. Agreed.

7. Neighbourhood Plan:

Update provide by Cllr Nicholas: As the Neighbourhood Plan will be a document that will need updating every five years or so approval was sought for a Desk Top version of the finished plan to be made and kept by the Clerk for future NP updates. Will cost in the region of £1,000 – Agreed.

8. Correspondence:

1. Village Clock – Request to assist with the cost of refurbishment. To be discussed under exempt.
2. Trees to rear of Down Avenue – SC volunteered to speak with the resident.
3. Russell Jarvis – Request to discuss AL/A1 site and how it may fit in with the NP. SN & DHB to provide a copy of the draft Neighbourhood Plan and arrange a meeting with the NP Steering Group.
4. Flood Issues: Hook Green: Resident unhappy with the slow progress from the PC & KCC. No further update from KCC. Still awaiting a response.
5. Dave Jenkins PCSO – Report noted
6. Old Bayham School Lodge – Ditch on common is waterlogged. Noted
7. Tree Warden – Clerk instructed to write and thank the Tree Warden for all his work and assistance over the past few years and to express the council's regret that he has chosen to resign and to ask if he would reconsider his decision.

9. Planning: Noted:

Coggers Barn, Coach House conversion has gone to Appeal.

10. Representative Sub-Group Reports:

Bewl Water: A meeting of the liaison group had recently taken place and despite the refusal at appeal of their last planning application it was clear that management at Bewl are still keen to achieve on site accommodation.

HIP/Highways: Quote for gateways at Hook Green received. To be discussed at next meeting

Footpaths: It has been reported that Chapel Bank PROW blocked with garden refuse. Clerk to report it to KCC.

Hall: The suggestion of providing WiFi to be put on the agenda at the next Hall Managers meeting.

Events: SN to contact bonfire society to ensure the unburned pallets are safe, or remove once the field dries out.

Website: There are a few remaining tasks but will be ready for 'go-live' shortly, potentially at the end of February. DB outlined plans for a competition to launch of the new site and also the creation of a 'Time Capsule'.

3

Business: Introductory email received from the potential new landlord of The Chequers. Proposing to close the pub for the

next few months during which time they will be updating the décor and addressing several issues with the building fabric. DC to make contact.

Parish Chairman: The Chairman gave a report on the meeting. Which included an interesting talk regarding defibrillators.

DB to gather together information on defibrillators within the parish.

Flood Rep: On Dec 20th the river broke its banks and waters rose as high as in Dec 2013 but not quite as high as in 2000. Water covered The Broadway. Traffic was stopped and some properties suffered water ingress however not to a terrible extent. The Council wishes to extend its thanks to the many residents of the parish, TWBC the Environment Agency and KCC for their help and support. DC the Flood Representative will place an article in the Parish Magazine.

11. Recruitment of RFO and Deputy Clerk:

There have been a number of expressions of interest. There are interviews still to be held. A separate meeting will be required to discuss this item. *To be arranged.*

12. Parish Council Elections: 7th May 2020:

Parish Council Elections are to be held on 7th May this year. The Clerk instructed to put an article in the next available Parish Magazine.

13. Matters of Urgency at Chairman's Discretion:

There were no items at this meeting.

14. EXEMPT:

Proposal for approval of Tree Survey works. – Works Agreed although additional quotes for price comparison should be obtained. DHB & DC to arrange.

Village Clock – Request for assistance with refurbishment costs. Cllrs RS & JU to contact the resident to discuss.

*Parish Lights – Conversion to LED.
Councillors to carry out an audit of parish owned lights to be discussed at the next meeting.*

The meeting closed at 22:00