

DRAFT
To be approved at
next meeting

LAMBERHURST PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on 12th January 2021 Remotely via Zoom.
The Purpose of this meeting is to deal with statutory
or urgent business during the current crisis.

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:

Tracey Dodd	Clerk/RFO	
Linda Hall	TWBC	LH
Sarah Hamilton	KCC	SH
Tim Cornick	Non-voting member	TC
John Gunner	Web Master	JG

The meeting was recorded via Zoom and will be kept until the minutes are approved at the next meeting.

Welcome

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

Introduction of New Webmaster DB introduced John Gunner, who has recently moved into the village and has very kindly offered to become our webmaster for the village website. John has 30 years of IT experience and is offering his services on a voluntary basis.

1. Questions from the Public:

There were none.

2. Apologies for absence:

There were none.

3. Declaration of Interest:

There were none.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2020.

Minutes approved.

Signing of the minutes at a later meeting once normal service resume was agreed.

6. Updates from those minutes.

There were none.

DHB then welcomed LH and SH to the meeting and invited them to update LPC on any matters of interest.

Councillors raised concerns over the decision on a recent planning application in the Conservation Area of the village centre. LH recommended applying for an Article 4 Direction through the Town Hall.

Cllr Nicholas requested a meeting with Conservation Officers, Kent Highways and/or planning Officers. LH agreed this would be advisable.

LH reported that the TWBC Budget for 2021 budget had yet to be decided.

Cllr Beeby left the meeting.

Councillors raised concerns to SH regarding recent signage that has been erected in The Slade and the bollards at the War Memorial.

SH to report to the various departments and report back to the Parish Council.

LH left the meeting.

7. Accounts:

Payments over £500.00 since the last meeting

£500.00	-	Public toilets (Nov 2020)
£661.35	-	New metal waste bin.
£2366.29	-	Insurance.
£539.00	-	Grass cutting (Nov 2020)
£500.00	-	Public toilets (Dec 2020)
£885.23	-	Christmas light repairs
£3067.70	-	Legal fees in connection with the purchase of the Chequers Field.
£500.00	-	Public toilets (Jan 2021)

8. Planning:

No questions were raised. The council agreed to apply for Article 4 Direction. This is a statement made under the Town and Country Planning Acts, specifically the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 which hopefully will provide added protection for our Conservation Areas.

9. Broadband for the Village Hall:

The possibility of installing broadband in the Memorial Hall was warmly welcomed. Cllr Uren was requested to contact the Memorial Hall committee for thoughts and to obtain costings for the project. The Council would then consider giving the project financial support of £250.00 -£300.00 per year.
Agreed unanimously.

10. Parish Council Elections:

These are due to take place in May 2021 after being postponed in 2020.

11. Christmas Raffle Update:

The chairman once again thanked Cllr Beeby for her tremendous efforts in organising the Christmas Raffle. £1315.00 was raised with £815.00 issued in prizes and £500.00 to be split equally between the two chosen Charities, St Marys Church Lamberhurst and Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust.

12. Lamberhurst Parish Profile on Social Media:

Councillors agreed the provision of a “Parish Council Profile Page” on social media. This page will advise of any road closures and other items of general interest to the village. It will be an information page only.

13. Common Lane:

Our Tree Warden has walked all of the areas covered by the Parish Council regarding remedial works that may be needed this year. The main priority is the roadside, where there are a variety of stems and limbs that may fail in coming years.

Ash dieback remains an ongoing process.

Cllr Canella to contact the Tree Warden to determine a timeframe of works to be carried out by the Parish also to report to the Clerk of any “failing” trees that are the responsibility of KCC’s responsibility or private landowners.

The recently purchased Chequers Field will also be inspected.

It was agreed that up to £1,000 be provided to repair/replace the fingerpost on the Village Green. The Clerk would investigate whether the damage was covered by insurance.

Following recent vandalism to The Down it was agreed to add new posts to stop access in the future.

A parishioner has enquired with regards to starting a Forest School in the area and will submit a business plan to the council. The Gravel Pit was considered suitable for this purpose.

The Council have agreed to bonfires on the allotments at specific times under the oversight of our Allotment Representatives.

Thanks were given to the Woodland Management team regarding their work at Hook Green.

14. Neighbourhood Plan:

The Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to TWBC under Regulation 16 and a further round of consultation has taken place. The Plan has now been passed on to an external Inspector for examination.

15. Chairman’s Update Re Chequers Field:

The chairman reported that the purchase of the field has now been completed.

16. Deer Management:

Following the meeting of Cllr Nicholas with landowners and the High Weald AONB Deer Management Team it was reported that we have an increasing issue with Deer Management across our Parish. There has been an increased number of deer roadkill and vehicle collisions in the past few months and horrific damage to our woodland. Landowners are encouraged to join a recently formed Deer Management Group.

17. Matters of Urgency at Chairman's Discretion:

There were none.

BU, JU, and TC left the meeting.

The Next Parish Council Meeting is due to be held, if found necessary, on Tuesday 9th March 2021.

Meeting closed 21.20.