

**DRAFT**  
To be confirmed  
at next meeting

**LAMBERHURST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held in Lamberhurst War Memorial Hall (*Side Hall*)**  
**At 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th November 2019**

<b>Members Present</b>	Clr David Hurst-Brown (Chair)	DHB
	Clr John Uren (Vice Chair)	JU
	Clr Denis Cruse	DC
	Clr Rolf Smith	RS
	Clr Sam Nicholas	SN
	Clr Steve Cannella	SC
	Clr John Francis	JF
	Clr Dawn Beeby	DB

<b>In Attendance</b>	Parish Clerk – Barbara Uren	BU
	Minutes Secretary – John Mottershead	JM
	TWBC <b>CEO</b> William Benson	WB
	TWBC Cllr Alan McDermott	AM
	TWBC Cllr Carol Machonochie	CM
	Linda Hall – Borough Cllr	LH
	Graham White – LNP Chairman	GW
	John Musgrove – NT	JM
	Paul Micklewhite – NT	PM
	12 members of the public	

***Public question time***

*Several questions were raised concerning the proposed development site at Misty Meadow Farm in TWBC's Draft Local Plan (**DLP**) and how the site was chosen. Speakers from TWBC who were in attendance answered questions and advised that the Borough Council is seeking all, good & bad, feedback for its proposals via the current Consultation process that ends Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 5pm.*

*No development sites have been proposed in the Lamberhurst Neighbourhood Plan, (**LNP**) which is a separate document being produced by local residents.*

*Have there been any further enquiries from developers regarding the site above the allotments in Brewer Street? - There have been none*

**Item3. Was taken at this point:**

**The Chairman invited visiting speakers to make their reports:**

**3 Visiting speakers: TWBC**

*CEO William Benson (WB) & Cllrs. Carol Machonochie (CM) & Alan McDermott (AM)*

**WB – Challenges facing the borough.**

*The local sector has been hit harder than any other sector by loss of income from central government.*

*TWBC keeps about 4p of every £ collected in business rates.*

*Talking about growth and infrastructure, in the UK we tend to have growth before supporting infrastructure. This can make people quite angry.*

*The Growth and Infrastructure Framework is the document which outlines plans for the county.*

*TWBC are keen to ensure that infrastructure keeps pace with growth.*

*WB then talked about the 'high street'. He stated that the high street is not dying, but changing.*

*Key projects across the Borough include the new library complex, and community hubs.*

*WB spoke briefly about Calverley Square.*

*He finished by quoting from Sir Michael Lyons, and saying that 'place-shaping' is what we do.*

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***Cllr Machonochie** then presented a talk about the work TWBC are doing to address homelessness.*

*TWBC have prevented homelessness for 119 households.*

*CM then talked about Dowding House, which TWBC took on recently. It has 25 units which are mainly for families. It provides support until families are able to look after themselves.*

*In the Draft Local Plan one of the policies is that any development of 10 houses or more has to have a proportion of 'affordable housing'.*

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***WB** addressed a question from the public concerning the planning of housing and the infrastructure to support it. For the last two local plans roughly 80% of new housing has gone into the town of Tunbridge Wells. The member of the public was of the opinion that new houses are being built in the wrong places. Cllr AM stated that businesses will follow the housing. Once land becomes available for building there is no legal reason why it should not be built on.*

*Another question raised by members of the public; 'How are the council going to provide health care for all the proposed new housing?'*

*WB replied that these are national issues and not just specific to TW. However these are just the kind of comments that TWBC would like to receive from the consultation now in progress.*

*DHB thanked the Borough Council representatives for their contribution this evening.*

**Borough Cllr LH** advised that the application to include The Chequers Inn on the Local Asset List has been approved by the Borough Council. But the decision may still be appealed by the owner.

The deadline for submission of comments on the DLP is this Friday.

LH also advised that Hawkhurst has been designated as a European Lorry Route, even though it is on a 'B' road.

DHB thanked LH for her contribution.

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**JM (John Musgrove) - NT's Scotney Castle Estate future plans.**

Scotney has become more popular with visitors since opening the house for 363 days a year. (From 70k visitors a year when it was garden only to 180k since the house was opened).

Now it is open all year, and becoming increasingly popular, parking in the overflow grass area is not feasible during the winter. They have to turn people away when the car park is full. They are aware of the strain they are putting on Lamberhurst from overspill parking.

They are bidding to the central National Trust for funding to improve their parking facilities with hard standing; and move their retailing outlets adjacent to it.

They will need to have the funds approved before they go to detailed planning.

The new hard-standing car park will be no larger than the existing grass overspill park.

They are looking to present multiple options for visitor experiences and not just by following one route.

They would also like to restore the present car park back to the orchard that used to occupy the area.

There will be a formal public consultation when the plans have been finalised; and this presentation is just to keep local people informed of their intentions.

DHB asked if they had a target for yearly visitors once the developments are finished. JM replied that they are hoping for 300k per year.

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**Update from GW on the Lamberhurst Neighbourhood Plan**

GW stated that the feedback has been largely positive to date.

There is an upcoming meeting with TWBC to ensure Lamberhurst's NP is has all the correct documentation so that it can proceed smoothly through the next stage.

It still needs a sustainability appraisal; and a consultation statement.

DHB thanked GW for his report.

**This meetings business began following Item 3.**

**1 Apologies for absence:**

Cllr Stott

**2 Declarations of interest:**

SC declared an interest under Planning – if the proposals for Pelverers Farm come up for discussion.

If it does he will be asked to leave the meeting for that item.

**3. Visiting speakers - Taken earlier. See above.**

**4 To approve minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

Minutes were approved with no corrections

**5 Matters Arising from those minutes.** There were none.

**6 Accounts:**

*Quarterly accounts presented by JF - Approved.*

*Draft Budget - Approved.*

*Increase due to proposed recruitment of an RFO & Deputy Clerk;*

*Increased Land Maintenance expenses and LED Street lighting.*

*JF proposed an increase to the precept of 8.9% - Approved.*

*JF requested permission to pay the annual insurance premium - Approved.*

**7 Common Land & Allotments:**

JU talked about drainage problems at Hook Green off and under the road next the Old School Houses. A meeting to be arranged with the Highway Authority.

Elephants Head: Emails have been received from the landlord that the drains in front of the pub on the access track are blocked along with a request for the Council to clear them. *See correspondence.* The Clerk was instructed to reply that as the Council did not install the drains maintenance liability lies with the inns owners.

*Hook Green phase 2 works:* SN talked about restoration work carried out at the common, with money from the Sussex Lund Trust. She has produced a poster which explains what is going on.

BU mentioned that the allotments on the south side of Brewer Street were originally intended to be used as allotments or car parking for the allotments.

They have unfortunately been listed as a 'green space' in the Neighbourhood Plan, and TWBC have also listed this area as a green space in its Draft Local Plan. The PC have asked for this to be deleted from the DLP but need the LNP to also delete it from its plan.

**8 Correspondence:**

1. Elephants Head - Blocked drains o/s the pub – Requesting PC to clear them. Clerk instructed to reply – As drains installed by pub owners in 1980 when permission was granted to upgrade the access track – Liability to maintain lies with the pub owner.

2. Community Warden Sept report – Noted

3. Burslem's - War Memorial restoration & cleaning Estimate – Agreed

4. 75<sup>th</sup> VE Day – 2020 – Noted

5. Living Forest Tree Safety Survey – Passed to CL Group for attention.

6. Insurance Renewal – Agreed

7. Citizens Advice – Seeking a donation – Offer a weekly advice service at the Lamberhurst Doctors Surgery. - Passed to the RFO for consideration.

8. Parish Street Lights - Estimate to convert to LED. Under consideration. SN. To obtain more information.

**9 Planning: List Noted.**

As an application for 7 x houses at Pelverers Farm had just been received. It was Agreed to hold a separate extra ordinary meeting of the Council on Tuesday (next) 19<sup>th</sup> November to discuss planning.

**10 TWBC Draft Local Plan**

*The council's Draft Response had been emailed to members prior to the meeting.*  
All comments received to date and by Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> would be collated and incorporated into the document by the Clerk and sent to TWBC by the Friday 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**11 Representative/Sub Group Reports:**

Bowl Water:	A new 'strategic plan' will be presented at an upcoming meeting
HIP:	Nothing to report
Buses/Transport:	
Police:	Report included in 'Correspondence'
Hall:	Plan for changes provided for information
Highways:	
Footpaths:	
Events:	Fireworks cancelled due to weather conditions
Website:	
Business:	
Housing:	
Neighbourhood Plan:	Update presented earlier in the meeting
MP Liaison:	
KALC:	
Parish Chairman:	
School:	

- 12 Recruitment of RFO & Deputy Clerk:** The present Clerk is wishing to retire next year but has offered to stay on to see in the next Council following elections in May. And to train the new deputy in the history and ways of the parish  
Job specifications compiled by Chairman, RFO and Clerk were approved. DHB read out the proposed job advert for comments. - Agreed  
DHB proposed giving initial interviews with prospective candidates before making recommendations to the Council.

**13 Matters of urgency at Chairman's discretion:**

Meeting closed at 22:30

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.30pm

*COPIES OF DRAFT MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE ON LAMBERHURST VILLAGE WEBSITE*  
Or, by appointment with the Clerk B.J. Uren