



BRAMSHOTT & LIPHOOK PARISH COUNCIL

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES AND ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT MEETING ON THE 30th OCTOBER 2017.

A MEETING OF BRAMSHOTT AND LIPHOOK PARISH COUNCIL TOOK PLACE AT 7.30PM IN THE PEAK CENTRE, MIDHURST ROAD, LIPHOOK ON MONDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2017.

MINUTES

PRESENT

Cllr Croucher
Cllr Easton
Cllr Enticknap-Green
Cllr Garnett
Cllr Ives – Chairman
Cllr Jerrard
Cllr Jourdan
Cllr Kirby
Cllr Poole
Cllr Trotter
Cllr Winfield

Melanie Kite – Deputy Executive Officer

Seven members of the public, one District Councillor and one County Councillor were in attendance. No member of the Press were in attendance.

107/17

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman pointed out the fire exits and reminded those present about use of mobile phones.

The Chairman announced that this was the Deputy Executive Officer's last Council meeting before taking up her new position of Town Clerk at Petworth Town Council and thanked her for her work whilst at Bramshott and Liphook Parish Council.

Cllr Ives mentioned that Mr. Peter Stanley, the Clerk, was now on his year's career break.

Mr. Tony Rudgard was in hospital having suffered a stroke. District Councillor Glass had been to see him and reported that he was making excellent progress. The Chairman, on behalf of the Council wished him well.

108/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Berry

109/17 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllr Garnett enquired whether Cllr Trotter should declare a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 15 – Motion on The Neighbourhood Development Plan, as his place of residence is in Bohunt Manor and therefore on SDNP land.

Cllr Trotter explained that he does have a personal interest but not have a pecuniary interest in the Bohunt Manor Estate as he does not own any property and has a life time rent free agreement. There would not be any financial gain.

The Chair advised that councillors would be advised to follow established protocol in other meetings, such as planning, where councillors have declared an interest, been involved in the discussion but chosen not to vote. The Chair of Council ruled that because this was a contentious issue Cllr Trotter could engage in the debate but should abstain from voting but it was for Cllr Trotter to decide.

Councillors were reminded to check that their Disclosure forms were correct and up to date.

110/17 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 29th JULY 2017

These were confirmed and signed as being a true record of the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Ives, seconded Cllr Croucher, seven in favour, Cllr Jerrard and Cllr Green abstained as they were not in attendance at the previous meeting.

Minutes approved.

111/17 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

112/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Meeting Adjourned

Public Questions - Items not on the Agenda

A member of the public asked for clarification on Minute 102/17 – Electoral Review of East Hampshire from the previous meeting.

The Motion was unanimously passed for the Parish Council to write to the Electoral Commissioner requesting to have 'single member wards' and therefore creating three 'Wards' within the Parish's Electoral Boundary, one for each District Councillor.

The Liphook Herald newspaper had, however, reported that the District Councillors were opposed to this idea.

The Chairman confirmed that the District Councillors had not been consulted on this matter as it was for the Parish Council to make a decision on the review put forward by the East Hampshire Electoral Boundary Commission.

A member of the public was concerned about the lack of litter bins around the Square. He asked if one could be placed by Lloyds Bank and another on the side by the cycle shop.

It was agreed that the Parish Office would put in a request to East Hants District Council for additional bins around the Square.

The traffic problem around Liphook, which continues to get worse especially during dropping off and collection at school time, was again discussed. A controlled pedestrian crossing was again proposed.

County Councillor Mitchell confirmed that the traffic survey remains on-going and Cllr Winfield explained that a traffic feasibility study is to be part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Public Participation – Items on the Agenda

A member of the public commented on Agenda Item 15 – Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Motion.

He felt that it was not for Councillors to decide what areas within the Parish Boundary should be considered by the Neighbourhood Development Plan's Steering Group but for the community as a whole.

Cllr Ives said that this would be discussed within the Council Meeting under Item 15.

Meeting reconvened.

113/17

REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Glass read the District Councillors report. In regard to Agenda Item 15 – Motion proposed by Cllr Jerrard, the advice is that the Neighbourhood Plan would run a risk that an inspector would not find the Plan to be sound.

To predetermine the area of search in advance of considering the spatial position undermines the plan-making process.

The final consultation period for the SDNP Local Plan starts on the 26th September and runs until the 21st November. All comments on the Park's proposed Local Plan must be submitted by the closing date.

A workshop is being held on Wednesday 27th September and is open to all Clerks, Parish and District Councillors.

The Charity Walk for Peace, jointly held with the Ahmadiyya Muslim Elders, took place on Saturday 9th September and was a great success. It is hoped it may become an annual event.

The EHDC Elite Sports grant has just be launched. A grant of up to £600 is available to help fund young men and women, aged between 10 and 24 years, for training and equipment.

East Hants District Council Cabinet has approved a Business Rates relief package. If a business's rates have increased by more than £600 per annum, EHDC will apply a 30% rate reduction on the difference between the old and the new business rate.

County Councillor Mitchell's report centred on the national austerity measures and the pressure the County Council has had to transform and change the way it works to deliver £340 million of savings over the past seven years. She pointed out that by 2019 the County Council will face an anticipated budget shortfall of £140 million. The HCC's recent consultation on 'Balancing the Budget' highlighted some of the difficult decisions which must be made across all departments.

The headline findings of the consultation are as follows:

- The majority of respondents (65%) agreed that the County Council should continue with its financial strategy of targeting resources on those who need them most and planning ahead to secure savings early.

- Responses were relatively evenly split between those who tended to support changes to local services and those who did not (50% agreed, 45% disagreed and 5% had no view either way).

Of all the options, this was respondents' least preferred.

- Two thirds of respondents (67%) agreed that the County Council should raise existing charges or introduce new charges to help cover the costs of running some local services.

- Over half of respondents (57%) agreed that the County Council should lobby the Government to vary the way some services are provided, and enable charging where the County Council cannot levy a fee due to statutory restrictions.

Of all the options presented, generating additional income was the most preferred option.

- Respondents would prefer the County Council to continue with its plans to raise Council Tax in line with Government policy (50% ranked this as their preferred approach to increasing Council Tax).

Of all the options, increasing Council Tax was respondents' second most preferred.

Cllr Mitchell went on to say that "It is going to be harder to make the further necessary savings because of the savings that have already been made and more radical and unavoidably difficult ways are being considered to make ends meet. That task is made even harder because so much of what we do now is focussed on heavily regulated essential services, especially for vulnerable children and adults.

The policy is to share out the savings across departments in line with the departments' individual budgets. Some of the measures being considered likely to affect residents across the county come from the Economy Transport and the Environment budget from which savings of £19.5m must be made. Proposals include removing HCC bus subsidies which currently support 13% of bus journeys across the county. An alternative proposal which would raise about £5m would be to charge a nominal fare of 50p per journey to those who have a free bus pass but that would require legislative change. In addition, the network of Household Waste Recycling Centres is facing some significant changes, likely to involve several closures, which could be avoided were a small entry fee to be introduced – but again that is not permitted under current legislation. School crossing patrols are also at risk.

HCC is working to identify different sources of funding to ensure that such services are preserved. However, unless there is a change in national government policy and in some cases legislation, the savings of £140 million is not negotiable and any proposal which is rejected would have to be directly replaced with another proposal. I have written to Damian Hinds MP about these issues.

The consultation findings have helped to inform and shape the final savings proposals that have now been considered by Executive Members. The County Council's Cabinet as a whole must next consider recommendations in October, before a final decision is made by the full County Council in November. At that point, any proposed changes to services would be subject to further public consultations".

Cllr Mitchell responded to a question on the Precept and said that it had been raised by the threshold amount.

Planning Committee

Cllr Jerrard introduced the meeting.

There had been a discrepancy over Cllr Easton's wording of the timing of the progress of EHDC's Local Plan.

Cllr Jerrard referred to the minutes of the September Planning Committee meeting which were not for adoption at this meeting. However, he wanted it be noted by councillors that District Councillor Mouland had been to the parish office following that meeting in order to ask for the minutes to be changed. Cllr Ives agreed to investigate this further by talking to Cllr Mouland who was not in attendance at the meeting.

Cllr Garnett asked for clarification on Agenda Item 101/17 which stated the Cllr Jerrard had declared a personal interest in planning application 21589/104. She requested for full details of the application referred to be written and not just the application number – Old Thorns Golf and Country Club.

Adoption of the Minutes from the meeting held on 14th August 2017.
Proposed Cllr Jerrard, Seconded Cllr Trotter, all in favour.

Finance and Policy Committee

Cllr Jourdan introduced the meeting.

Cllr Garnett asked whether a policy had been agreed by the committee as it had been raised by her at an earlier meeting while she was on the committee. Cllr Ives agreed to look at meeting minutes and advise Cllr Garnett of the outcome.

Adoption of the Minutes from the meeting held on 13th September 2017.
Proposed Cllr Jourdan, Seconded Cllr Ives, all in favour.

Recreation Committee

Cllr Enticknap-Green introduced the meeting.

The possibility of taking on an apprentice was discussed. Cllr Croucher confirmed that an apprentice can start in the Michaelmas Term as colleges run two course a year.

Adoption of the Minutes from the meeting held on 21st August 2017.
Proposed Cllr Enticknap-Green, Seconded Cllr Trotter, all in favour.

LMC Committee

Cllr Kirby introduced the meeting.

More helpers are required at the film nights and for other forthcoming events.

Would councillors please note the dates of films and productions when help will be required.

Adoption of the Minutes from the meeting held on 20th July.
Proposed Cllr Kirby, Seconded Cllr Ives, all in favour.

115/17

TO RECEIVE THE MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE F & P COMMITTEE

The schedule of Accounts for July 2017 and August 2017 were noted (copy in Minute Book as attachment 1).

There was a query from Cllr Garnett regarding the Parish Councils' employees being on the Local Government Pension Scheme. The Deputy Executive Officer will respond to Cllr Garnett from the Parish Office.

The Bank reconciliation for July has been completed by Cllr Ives.

116/17 BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT

Cllr Jourdan introduced the August Budget Monitoring statement. There were no questions.

117/17 ANNUAL RETURN 2016/17

Cllr Ives gave a brief explanation on BDO's report saying that there were no matters arising and that we had received BDO's certificate.

The Annual Return and BDO's certificate were approved and accepted.
Proposed Cllr Ives, Seconded Cllr Croucher, all in favour.

118/17 REPORT OF THE NDP LIAISON WORKING PARTY AND RECOMMENDATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE STEERING GROUP

Cllr Ives updated members on the meeting held on 18th September when a proposal was put forward for a further member be appointed to the Steering Group. This will bring the total number to 10 members.

Mrs Anna Leslie had been interviewed and recommended as the candidate.
Proposed Cllr Ives, Seconded Cllr Winfield, 7 in favour, 2 abstained – Cllr Jerrard and Cllr Easton abstained on grounds that they believed there should be more than 2 members on the interview panel. Cllr Ives advised that the Terms of Reference for the Steering Group, including interview criteria, was agreed by council in February 2017.

119/17 LIAISON WORKING PARTY

Cllr Kirby was now on the Steering Group and therefore no longer eligible to be on the Working Party, so there is now a vacancy. Cllr Garnett and Cllr Jourdan put themselves forward. A ballot was held – Cllr Jourdan carried
Proposed Cllr Kirby, Seconded Cllr Poole

120/17 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

Cllr Winfield, Chair of the Steering Group, updated Members on the excellent progress that is being made. Flyers, posters and banners are being prepared for the forthcoming Design Forum to be held in November over three days. Stakeholders will be invited to give a ten minute presentation on their views for the Parish and the consultants, FERIA, will bring it all together on the third day.

Mrs Chantel Foo has been elected as Vice Chair.

Following a question from Cllr Garnett, Cllr Winfield confirmed that the number having attended the previous Visioning Event was 8 councillors out of a total 61 people.

121/17 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN – THE MOTION

Proposed Cllr Jerrard, Seconded Cllr Easton

A full discussion on the issue of whether the area of land lying within the South Downs National Park should be included in the NDP housing plans ensued.

Council members resolved that the Neighbourhood Development Plan was a community-led project. It was felt that all areas within Bramshott and Liphook Parish should be considered by the community as part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan and it is for the community to decide how they wish to use the green spaces.

The Motion:

7 against, 1 in favour, 3 abstained. The motion was defeated.

122/17 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL POLICIES WORKING PARTY

No progress to report. This will be brought to the next Full Council Meeting on 30th October.

123/17 RECREATION COMMITTEE

No new member was appointed and it was agreed to bring this back to a future meeting.

124/17 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Ives had attended the 50th anniversary party of the Liphook Preservation Society. This was an excellent evening and there was a great deal of interesting and valuable information on display.

EHAP&TC held a meeting on 6th September. All residents are encouraged to dial 101 to report any drugs issues anti-social behaviour. The Community Police recognise that this number is difficult to get through to but ask that everybody perseveres.

Speed Watch is under strain as there are now only 3 volunteers. More volunteers are desperately required to keep Speed Watch going. It is unlikely, at this stage, that the group will be able to start again in October.

Meeting closed at 9:38pm

Signed
Chairman

Dated.....