



BRAMSHOTT & LIPHOOK PARISH COUNCIL

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A MEETING OF BRAMSHOTT & LIPHOOK PARISH COUNCIL TOOK PLACE AT 8.00PM IN THE HASKELL CENTRE, MIDHURST ROAD, LIPHOOK ON MONDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2011

MINUTES

PRESENT: Cllr J Austin-Olsen (Chairman), Cllr G Amey, Cllr M Croucher, Cllr Mrs B Easton, Cllr R Evans, Cllr Mrs A C James, Cllr P Jordan, Cllr Dr S Judge, Cllr Ms J Poole, Cllr J Tough (Parish Councillors). Cllr Mrs E Hope (District Councillor). Mr A Groves (Clerk). Twelve members of the public and one member of the press were present.

19/11 TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Action

The Vice-Chairman invited nominations for Chairman of the Parish Council. Cllr Croucher nominated Cllr Austin-Olsen. No other nominations were received.

For Decision: Election of Cllr Austin-Olsen as Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr Croucher **Seconded:** Cllr Dr Judge **Vote:** For: 10

Resolution: Cllr Austin-Olsen was elected Chairman of the Parish Council.

JA-O

The Chairman invited nominations for Vice-Chairman. None were received. Cllr Tough volunteered to be Vice-Chairman.

For Decision: Election of Cllr Tough as Vice-Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs James **Seconded:** Cllr Dr Judge **Vote:** For: 10

Resolution: Cllr Tough was elected Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council.

JT

20/11 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT - None.

21/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Newman, Cllr Wilson.

22/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - The declaration was read out.

23/11 MINUTES OF MEETINGS

31 January 2011.

Minute: 07/11; amend to read "A report was made". Mr Burns interjected and stated that points he had made at the meeting were not in the minutes, and the minutes were not a true record. The Chairman said he would deal with this during public questions.

For Decision: To agree the minutes of the meeting, subject to the amendment.
Proposed: The Chairman **Seconded:** Cllr Ms Poole **Vote:** For: 10
Resolution: Agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting, subject to the amendment made to Minute 07/11.

Clerk

7 February 2011.

For Decision: To agree the minutes of the extraordinary meeting.
Proposed: The Chairman **Seconded:** Cllr Mrs James **Vote:** For: 10
Resolution: Agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Clerk

24/11 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETINGS

31 January 2011.

08/11 – Public Participation. Cllr Jordan confirmed that it had been clarified that the £70,000 related to the children’s play area 5-12 year olds, which had alternatively been called Phase 1, and did not encompass Phase 2. Cllr Mrs James said she would respond during the consideration of the Recreation Committee Minutes, under matters arising, because she disputed what Cllr Jordan had said. The Clerk confirmed that the original minute was therefore correct.

7 February 2011. None.

25/11 MINUTES – COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES/GROUPS

Recreation Committee - 7 February 2011

Cllr Jordan referred to the proposal made by Cllr Mrs James at Minute 07/11, and that no vote had been taken. Cllr Mrs James confirmed that was the case, her proposal had not been seconded, nor had a vote been taken. Cllr Jordan said he felt that the definition of the project should be agreed.

Discussion: Whether a vote had been taken or not, what had been stated, the time taken on discussing the “minutiae” of the matter, what the project consisted of, and making it clear what it was. How to take the matter forward; the Clerk advised that this should be referred back to the Recreation Committee to be dealt with and agreed and voted on by that Committee.

Proposal: The project, Phase 1, was for the children’s play area, 5-12 year olds, in the Recreation Ground, and agreed at £70,000.

Proposed: Cllr Jordan **Seconded:** The Chairman **Vote:** For: 10

Resolution: Agreed.

Proposal: Accept the report of the meeting and recommendations.

Proposed: The Chairman **Seconded:** Cllr Mrs James **Vote:** For: 10

Resolution: Agreed.

Clerk

Finance & Policy (F&P) Committee – 14 February 2011

Cllr Austin-Olsen said that a grant had been agreed for the Peak Centre, who would become a core client, with their grant subject to review. Grants had also been agreed for Liphook Business Initiative, and the Hampshire County Youth Band Association. Funds had been agreed for migration of funds to reserves at the end of the year.

Discussion: Not bringing the temporary cover for the Deputy Clerk to full Council for a decision, the decision already made by the Committee, advertising the post, the financial and other resource costs, “best value”, the costs of advertising, advertising temporary posts, where it would be advertised, the use of redundant EHDC staff, and advice given by HALC. Cllr Jordan said he would be abstain on the decision.

For Acceptance: Accept the report of the meeting and recommendations.

Proposed:The Chairman **Seconded:** Cllr Dr Judge **Vote:** For: 6, Against: 3, Abstention: 1.

Resolution: Agreed.

Clerk

Planning Committee – 21 February 2011

Cllr Jordan reported that they had considered four applications; he highlighted two. One was the application for the display of illuminated fascia at the Royal Anchor. He outlined the discussion; no objections were made. The other application was to construct a grassed earthworks platform and landscaping at Old Thorns Golf and Country Club. No objections had been received in the immediate vicinity, and the application had been accepted.

For Acceptance: Accept the report of the meeting and recommendations.

Proposed: Cllr Jordan **Seconded:** Cllr Mrs James **Vote:** For: 10.

Resolution: Agreed.

Clerk

26/11 MONTHLY REPORT – THE CHAIRMAN OF THE F&P COMMITTEE

A report was made by Cllr Austin-Olsen on completion of monthly checks for the period 1-31 January 2011 and questions were invited.

Cllr Croucher asked the Clerk, through the Chairman, who Thompsons Solicitors were as shown on page 543. The Clerk said they were “solicitors”. Cllr Croucher asked under what basis the Council were paying this sum of money. The Clerk said that if this was to be discussed, he would leave the meeting and somebody else could answer the question as it was known what the answer was. Cllr Croucher asked that another councillor illuminate him as to what the payment was. The Clerk left the meeting. The Clerk was invited to re-join the meeting; no notes or minutes were taken during his absence.

For Approval: Acceptance of report and payments for February 2011.

Proposed: Cllr Austin-Olsen **Seconded:** Cllr Dr Judge **Vote:** For: 10

Resolution: Agreed.

Clerk

27/11 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Meeting adjourned.

Questions to the Parish Council – Matters not on the Agenda

Mrs Hope. There was discussion on temporary staff, and I feel this issue does not meet equal opportunities and rights and should be investigated? Again, the Council have not made a decision, it was not equal, and any employment advisor would tell you that. A post had to be advertised, whether it cost money or not, and it smacked of jobs for the boys and this is not right. Again another financial issue, and it was taxpayers money.

The Chairman. It is rare that questions and arguments were other than financial. As already explained, it was our best endeavours for the benefit of the people of Liphook, so

money was not spent when it did not have to be. The person is trained, knows all the systems, and I fail to see why we need to go in to the “open market”. It was a commercial decision and that was perfectly acceptable.

(There was a further discussion over this matter between councillors and members of the public.)

Mr Robinson. I attended the meeting on 23 December and my memory of the meeting is not in accordance with the minutes. In particular Minute 156/10 was a question from Mrs Hope. Part of the question has been excised or redacted and was that done with the full vote of the Parish Council?

The Clerk. No. It was done to protect personal data and redacted by the Data Controller.

The Chairman. As the Clerk said, because there has been leaking of data which has put everyone in a difficult position, this is why it was removed.

Mr Robinson. Why was this redaction done, when full details of both payments and to whom they were paid were published in the Liphook Herald on 3 December, three weeks before the meeting and therefore I submit they were in the public domain?

Cllr Ms Poole. They were published in the Herald and a retraction was made to part of it.

(There was further discussion about this matter, the need for consent to publish personal data, and that this was covered by the Data Protection Act.)

Mr Burns. At the last meeting there were a number of questions that I asked and they have not been recorded on the minutes. Mr Chairman, this is not the first time this has happened to me. I have a letter I wrote. I do not know what I have done to your Parish Clerk but it seems to me that he does not ever want to put anything in that I say at meetings. I have the letter here, I sent to you about a meeting dated 20th of December; would you like me to read it to you Mr Parish Clerk?

(The Clerk asked the Chairman if he could ask the member of the public to be less offensive in his approach which he felt was inappropriate; The Chairman agreed, and said that Mr Burns should ask his question).

Mr Burns. Don't say that I am starting to bully or harass you because I am not, because I am telling you the truth and I want the truth from you doing the minutes as they were not truthful. Which one do you want; the question I asked last time? I do not want to waste people's time as they were here and heard it all. It was when I was asking you about “a rebel” in the newspapers when they were classing certain Parish Councillors as “rebels”. I asked the question who authorised the fact from these meetings that these Parish Councillors were called “rebels”? I also asked the Chairman how he felt about this? And I ask you again how you feel about it.

The Clerk. Which minutes are you referring to?

Mr Burns. Were the public allowed to ask questions?

Cllr Tough. Minute 08/11?

(There was further discussion and clarification sought over the minute. Mr Burns said it was when the Clerk made his decision to leave the meeting. The reasons for people having to leave meetings was explained to Mr Burns.)

The Clerk. I was not there for the part of the meeting to which you refer. It was Mrs Grocott. It was not me Mr Burns, I was not there and I did not minute that part of the meeting, so I am not responsible for those minutes. The implication that I minuted incorrectly is completely untrue; I was not present or responsible.

(Mr Burns made further comments about the Clerk not minuting correctly; the Clerk reiterated what he had said previously and that any questions about those part of the minutes should be addressed to Mrs Grocott. There was further explanation and discussion over how the meetings should be minuted, and the discussions with Mr Lugg at the last meeting).

Mr Burns. I would like to know who it is that authorises the Liphook Herald or any other newspaper, as to what they put in it about “rebels” as Parish Councillors, elected representatives?

Cllr Mrs James. That is the Herald.

(Mr Burns made further comments about the Press, honesty, and information)

The Clerk. I will be totally honest. I was not there, I did not write those minutes and I had nothing to do with the minutes you are referring to. I wish to make that clear. Thank you.

The Chairman. We will make every effort to minute what you say and try and get out and join in with the community more.

Mr Trodden said that he was unaware that the meeting was being recorded and that he should have been told before the start, because it was a breach of his Human Rights. It was explained that this was normally stated at the beginning of every meeting; the Chairman apologised that this was his fault for this meeting. Mr Trodden accepted the apology.

Mr Trodden. I have a letter from a solicitor regarding Mr Nigel Newman and some questions I asked at a previous meeting.

(The Chairman said that this would be difficult to answer and Mr Trodden said he was making a statement; he was reminded that it was question time).

Mr Trodden. How did the solicitors acting for Mr Nigel Newman get a transcript of exactly what was said, verbatim?

(Mr Trodden said it had been recorded without his permission and he promised he would be taking legal action).

The Chairman. It would have been recorded when you were here last time and you would have heard at the beginning that the loop and recorder was being put on.

(The recording of the meeting and its use was discussed. Mr Trodden referred to a question he asked Mr Newman at the last meeting, and read from a letter that Mr Trodden said had been sent by Mr Newman's solicitor. Councillors and members of the public questioned the relevance to the Parish Council and reminded Mr Trodden that it was question time. The Chairman asked Mr Trodden what his question was?).

Mr Trodden. Has Nigel Newman ever been arrested and charged with a criminal offence?

The Chairman. You have answered the question yourself.

Mr Trodden. Mr Newman said "no".

(There was further discussion about questions raised and answers given at the last meeting; Cllr Tough raised a point of order; the Chairman suggested that if Mr Trodden had any further questions he should write a letter.)

The meeting was re-convened.

Members/Public Participation (Code of Conduct, Paragraph 12 (2)). None.

Public Participation (Items on the Agenda). At the Chairman's discretion.

28/11 COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP

The Chairman invited nominations for the Chairman of the Recreation Committee. Cllr Mrs James proposed Cllr Jordan. Cllr Jordan said he would find it difficult to assume the role of Chairman of a Committee. Following an interjection by Mr Burns, Cllr Jordan explained that this was due to the requirement for him to make an appointment to see the Parish Clerk. Cllr Ms Poole volunteered to be Chairman.

For Decision: To appoint Cllr Ms Poole as Chairman of the Recreation Committee.

Proposed: The Chairman **Seconded:** Cllr Tough **Vote:** For: 10

Resolution: Agreed.

**JP
Clerk**

29/11 POLICY AND PROCEDURAL DOCUMENTS

The Motion: "The PC will enact the procedures necessary to adopt the following Policy & Procedural Documents as their preferred documents, and as such they would supersede the appropriate existing PC documents where applicable. Full adoption by the PC is to be timetabled, so as to be completed, by March 2011 at the latest.

Document 1: - Member-Officer Protocol December 2009 LAIS 1265.1

Document 2: - Governance Toolkit For Parish & Town Councils Version 3, April 2009

Document 3: - The new version (March 2010?) from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) of the Model Standing Orders for Local Councils Parts 1 & 2. Part 2 is in electronic form (from HALC) so that the appropriate Council name can be inserted into it, so as to minimise the work needed to adopt it. Any amendments to these new Standing Orders would need to be set out on a separate sheet of paper and debated by full Council before they could be adopted."

The Motion was proposed by Cllr Croucher and seconded by the Chairman. Cllr Croucher spoke to the motion referring to his briefing notes.

Discussion: The status of the documents, the development of Standing Orders, how and when the Standing Orders should be amended, and how the documents could be presented to the Council.

For Decision: The motion as proposed, subject to the date being amended to April 2011.

Proposed: Cllr Croucher **Seconded:** Cllr Mrs Easton **Vote:** For: 9, Against: 1

Resolution: Agreed, as proposed, subject to the date being changed to April 2011.

30/11 REPORTS/REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

31/11 EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Motion: “This Council resolves to exclude members of the public and the press during the consideration of the following items, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were to be present during that item there would be disclosure of exempt information as specified in Paragraph 4 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Local Government Act 1972”.

For Decision: The Motion.

Proposed: The Chairman **Seconded:** Cllr Mrs James **Vote:** For: 10

Resolution: Agreed.

Exempt Session Decisions – 28 February 2011

The following exempt sessions minutes were agreed:

Parish Council Meeting - 31 January 2011.

Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council - 7 February 2011.

The following reports of meetings and recommendations were accepted:

LMCMC Meeting - 20 January 2011.

Recreation Committee Meeting - 7 February 2011.

F&P Committee Meeting - 14 February 2011.

Business Concluded: 9.30pm. Confirmed at the meeting: 28 March 2011

Signed: Chairman

Draft minutes until approved by the Parish Council, which does not preclude the implementing of decisions