EAST LAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY 20th JANUARY 2025 at 18:15

The 6th Form Café, Seaford College

Meeting began 18.18		**ACTION**
PRESENT Cllr Charles Britton, Cllr Barry Gosden, Cllr Will Yates, Cllr Simon Longman, and Cllr Patrick Limpus. Parish Clerk Amy Harte.		
IN ATTENDANCE Michael Blunt (Graffham Parish News), John Bracey (Graffham Parish Council), Chris McGolpin (East Lavington Resident)		
1/25 **AGENDA ITEM 1:** WELCOME Cllr Britton welcomed all to the meeting.		
2/25 **AGENDA ITEM 2:** APOLOGIES Cllr John Cross, CDC; County Cllr Tom Richardson, WSCC		
3/25 **AGENDA ITEM 3:** DECLARATION OF INTERESTS None, unless Seaford College is discussed (Cllr Yates)		
4/25 **AGENDA ITEM 4:** MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER & 16TH DECEMBER TO BE AGREED AND SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD. It was RESOLVED that both minutes were a true record, and they were duly signed by Cllr Britton. **4.2** COUNCILLORS & CLERK TO REPORT BACK ON ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS 1. New Website (Cllr Longman) Cllr Longman has been looking at the existing hosting, but cannot put both on the same site. We now will have to pay for another year of the existing site. He will work on this when he gets time. 2. Speed limits Cllr Limpus & Cllr Richardson Cllr Richardson is working on this, Cllr Limpus has offered support. 6. All other actions carried out or on separate Agenda item		Cllr Longman to work on the new website when able.
5/25 **AGENDA ITEM 5:** VISITORS' QUESTIONS		

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None		
6/25 **AGENDA ITEM 6:** COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (Mr Tom Richardson, County Councillor) Not present, no report sent.		
7/25 **AGENDA ITEM 7:** DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (Mr John Cross, District Councillor) CDC Matters January 2025 The National Parks in the UK are 75 years old, as of December 2024. There are 15 parks across the UK and the South Downs National Park is the youngest, which was formed in 2010 The South Downs National Park welcomes not only a new CEO, Sion McGeever, in its 15th year, but wants to celebrate the 75 years by helping 75 schools to add wildlife havens to their school grounds. The ReNature Grants, up to £1000, could be planting a wildflower meadow, planting trees, digging a pond, or the installation of bee and bird boxes. Applications can be received by 1st July and are on a first come first served basis. The Link is https:/southdownstrust.org.uk/national-parks-75th-birthday-renature-fund-for-schools/ Good luck to any schools that apply. SDNP has had its own Christmas present in 2024, having just been given 90k through the South Downs National Park Trust by the OSB Group. This generous gift will be used to plant thousands of new trees, create new wildlife meadows to support pollinators and restore wetlands to help birds, mammals and insects flourish. You may have read in the national press about the achievements of the tree planting of SDNP. In summary the target to plant 100,000 trees by 2025 is on target. Some 400 new disease resistant Elms will be planted, along with a further 20,294 other trees this winter. The call has gone out for new tree planting applications for this year. The link www.southdowns.gov.uk/triumph-for-trees-as-south-downs-national-parks-huge-planting-scheme-edges-closer-to-target/ Good Luck to those who apply. Finally, this month the South Down National Park is in the very advanced ages of writing a new update Local Plan. This is an important document as it is the guidelines for planning policy and also lays out land supply for the coming years. The Local Plan is at the Regulation 18 stage, that means the draft document will be open to public comment. All Parish, District and County Councillors will have been informed and invited to comment, as will all members of the public. The document should be available to view on the SDNP website by the end of January. I wish everyone a prosperous and healthy 2025. John Cross Fittleworth Ward Chichester District Councillor		

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8/25

AGENDA ITEM 8: PARISH COUNCIL ORGANISATION

Roger Coates has resigned, John Bracey asked for the framework. The Clerk forwarded an email from Cllr Britton to John Bracey. Graffham have elected a new Chairman, Gillian Charlesworth.

Cllr Longman stated that at the last meeting the business case was shared with the other councillors. Cllr Longman would like to hear from the other councillors with a view to consulting the parishioners.

Cllr Britton stated that Graffham PC discussed the merger at their recent meeting, it was resolved to consider the merger. Consider timescales, costs etc. discussions will be held at PC meetings. Gillian stated that there was interest but no clear timescale, mentioned something in the region of two years. John Cross was present and suggested that there was a movement from the government to merge councils (at County level at present) but this may filter down to Parish Councils. John Bracey felt that what Cllr Britton reported was not accurate. He stated that Graffham PC wanted to pursue it but Gillian Charlesworth would progress this as and when appropriate.

Cllr Limpus asked about the framework that was mentioned.

Business case – Cllr Britton cannot see any benefits to ELPC or the residents of East Lavington, only to Graffham PC.

Cllr Gosden stated that Cllr Longmans paper was a 'Business case for the merger' he produced a business case stating the strategic, commercial and benefits for the merger. Should perhaps take into account Duncton and Graffham. Payments would rise for the ELPC residents as the precept is kept very low. Graffham has a need for increased income, so the likelihood is that the precept will rise. A discussion took place about the calculation of the precept per Band D property. Shops were discussed, the Graffham shop facility was started with contributions form households in East Lavington. Cllr Gosden summarised by saying that he could not support the merger.

Cllr Limpus discussed the £40000 over 10 years from ELPC precept could be of benefit to use this more wisely, supporting community facilities. Cllr Limpus would like to ask the Parishioners what they would like to do.

Cllr Yates asked who the parishioners would be better served by. Spending £4000 per year on grit bins and planning applications. Would they not prefer the monies to be spent on the facilities available to them.

Cllr Longman stated that district town and parish level there will be mergers, the question being how we are best served.

Cllr Britton felt that if a merger took place the East Lavington would disappear.

Chris McGolpin stated that he would like to be consulted and considers Graffham the nearest community with facilities that he would use.

Cllr Britton proposed a vote on the interest in going ahead with the merger process. 'East Lavington PC does not wish to merge with Graffham PC' Cllr Limpus countered this and asked for a vote to consult the parish before taking the vote regarding merging with Graffham.

Cllr Britton stated that Gillian Charlesworth would not want to go ahead with a merger. John Bracey strongly objected to this statement and felt it was assumption and incorrect.

Clerk to contact the monitoring officer and

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Cllr Longman will be consulting the monitoring officer regarding petitioning the parishioners as an individual who is a Parish Council. Cllr Yates said he didn't want to merge with Graffham personally but would support consulting the parishioners. The Clerk was not happy with the voting proposed by Cllr Britton so will take advice and will put this on the agenda for the next meeting.		investigate the correct order of the process.
<u>9/25</u> **AGENDA ITEM 9:** PLANNING - Applications & Decisions, 1. **SDNP/24/05103/HOUS** DENHAM Graffham Road East Lavington West Sussex GU28 0QF Erection of porches and single storey rear extension. **Comments required by COB Wednesday 22nd January 2025** Cllr Gosden discussed the arrangements proposed and could not see any reason to object to it apart from the lantern roof which would require comments. Cllr Longman found no reason to object to it. Proposed response: No objection subject to the lantern roof being fitted with black out blinds. 2. **SDNP/24/04350/HOUS** High Bank Beechwood Lane East Lavington West Sussex GU28 0NA. Single storey wrap around extension, 2 storey rear extension, alterations to existing roof including 5 no. dormer windows. External and internal refurbishments. **ELPC supported this application. Application in progress** 3. **SDNP/24/04120/LDP** Denham Graffham Road East Lavington West Sussex GU28 0QF Erection of Porches and single storey rear extension. **Approved 29th November 2024.** 4. **SDNP/24/04099/FUL** Westerlands Norwood Lane East Lavington West Sussex GU28 0QJ. Application for the use as a campsite consisting of 24 tent pitches, including up to 5 motorhomes and structures including an outdoor kitchen, 2 toilet blocks, a shower/washing up block with a drainage field, wooden shelter for diners, non-permanent trailer for managers accommodation and a car park. (Change from temporary to a permanent permission (originally approved under SDNP/18/05595/FUL). **ELPC Raised No Objection. Application in Progress.** 5. **SDNP/24/03091/FUL** Tangletrees The Street Graffham West Sussex GU28 0QA Replacement dwelling, ancillary building and associated landscaping including ha-ha and pond. **ELPC recommended refusal Refused 20th November 2024** 6. **SDNP/21/04334/FUL** Seaford College The Drive East Lavington GU28 0NB. Proposed zip wire and low & high ropes. ELPC submitted a no objection response in 2021. HCC Landscape Advisor did not support due to impact on protected woodland. **In Progress** 7. **SDNP/24/03620/LIS** Seaford College The Drive East Lavington West Sussex GU28 0NB Identical replacement of a window and dry lining to internal walls (Archive room on lower ground floor). **In Progress** 8. **SDNP/22/04467/FUL** Seaford College The Drive East Lavington West Sussex GU28 0NB. 8 no. new tennis courts and replacement of existing tennis courts with all-weather hockey pitch together with creation of overflow car parking and associated works. **ELPC raised no objection. Approved 10th January 2025**		Cllr Gosden to formulate a response and circulate. Clerk to submit response

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10/25

AGENDA ITEM 10: FINANCE

Documents circulated to Councillors by email.

1. Approval of Accounts to 20/01/25

Income & Expenditure

EXPENDITURE	DETAIL	DATE (TO BE) PAID	AMOUNT
Clerk's Salary	27 hours@ £18.72	21/01/25	£505.44
Office Allowance	2@£20	21/01/25	£40.00
Salary Increase backdated to 1.4.24	£0.62 x 99	21/01/25	£61.38
Total expenditure			**£606.82**

INCOME RECEIVED FROM	DETAIL	DATE REC'D	AMOUNT
Total income			

Accounts for the period and above payments RESOLVED to be approved.

2. Other Financial Issues
   2.1 Budget setting.

A Budget of £4000 was requested for 2025/26

11/25

AGENDA ITEM 11: CORRESPONDENCE & INVITATIONS RECEIVED 18 November 2024 to 20 January 2025

DATE	FROM	DETAIL	AGREED ACTION
		All Parishes Meeting Feb 3rd 2025	
6/01/25	Chris McGolpin	FOI Request	Cllr Britton to assist with this.

Cllr Britton to assist with the FOI request

12/25

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORTS RE ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS, COURSES AND / OR SEMINARS

CDALC & WSALC meetings were attended by Cllr Britton

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13/25 **AGENDA ITEM 13:** PARISH MATTERS 1. MINERALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT No update 2. RIGHTS OF WAY & HIGHWAYS No survey this year. If there is anything that comes through then forward to Cllr Gosden 3. WEBSITE RENEWAL Discussed in Agenda Item 4.		
14/25 **AGENDA ITEM 14:** Dates of Forthcoming Meetings Monday 17th March 2025 Monday 19th May 2025 Monday 21st July 2205 Monday 15th September 2025 Monday 17th November 2025		
These minutes are an accurate record of the meeting Signed: Name & Position: Date:		

Meeting closed 19.20

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