



BRAMSHOTT & LIPHOOK PARISH COUNCIL

Mr A S R GROVES
CLERK

Tel: 01428 722988
Fax: 01428 727335
E-mail: blpc@zoom.co.uk

THE PARISH OFFICE
HASKELL CENTRE
MIDHURST ROAD
LIPHOOK
HAMPSHIRE GU30 7TN

A MEETING OF BRAMSHOTT & LIPHOOK PARISH COUNCIL TOOK PLACE AT 8.00PM IN THE HASKELL CENTRE, MIDHURST ROAD, LIPHOOK, ON MONDAY 20 JUNE 2005

MINUTES

PRESENT WERE: Dr J Tough (Chairman), Mr N Atherden, Mr S Coyte, Mr F Dawkins, Mr A Jordan, Mr L Fatcher, Mr D Murray, Mr W Ratcliffe (Parish Councillors).
Two members of the public and one member of the press were present.

91/05 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anchor Appeal. The Chairman congratulated everyone who had contributed to the successful outcome of the Anchor Appeal.

92/05 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Croucher, Cllr Hope, Cllr James, Cllr Walters.

93/05 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING – 23 MAY

Resolution: The minutes were agreed and signed as being a true record.

Clerk

94/05 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

95/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman read out the declaration.

96/05 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES/REPORTS OF COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

Finance & Policy (F & P) Committee – 6 June 2005. The Chairman, reporting on behalf of Cllr Croucher, referred to the minutes of the meeting. He said that grants had been approved, expenditure had been agreed for a printer for the Surgery Office, a fridge for the Recreation Staff, and the purchase of Broadband for the Parish Office. The Chairman invited questions.

The Chairman asked that the minutes of the F & P Committee meeting of 6 June 2005 be accepted and the recommendations be adopted. A vote was taken.

Resolution: Agreed.

Planning Committee – 13 June 2005. Cllr Coyte, reporting on behalf of Cllr Mrs A C James, referred to the minutes of the meeting. He reported that Cllr Mrs A C James had thanked everyone involved in the Anchor Appeal. A revised application for 2-4 Longmoor Road had been considered and objections had been made. An application concerning the conversion of outbuildings at Passfield had caused concern, and had been objected to. Cllr Fitcher had briefed members on the consultation document for the Hampshire Minerals & Waste issues. It was felt that there needed to be more re-cycling, although the mineral aspects did not affect the community in the immediate vicinity. The nearest mineral extraction was for sand at Thrift End, Bordon. Cllr Coyte invited questions.

Cllr Coyte asked that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 13 June 2005 be accepted and the recommendations be adopted. A vote was taken.

Resolution: Agreed.

Liphook Millennium Centre Management Committee (LMCMC) – 16 June 2005. Cllr Murray referred to the minutes and reported that the major discussion point was the audio visual project at the Liphook Millennium Hall. A demonstration had been given, which those present thought was most satisfactory. An electric screen was proposed to overcome damage problems. Questions were raised over the nature of the electric screen, the cost, and the use of reserves to fund the project. It was explained that the screen would be an electrically operated projector screen, the equipment would cost in the region of £4,500, and it was for the Parish Council to determine the use of reserves.

Cllr Murray asked that the minutes of the LMCMC meeting of 16 June 2005 be accepted and the recommendations be adopted. A vote was taken.

Resolution: Agreed.

Cllr Jordan joined the meeting.

97/05 TO RECEIVE THE MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE F&P COMMITTEE

The Chairman reported that on Monday 15 June, he had checked the invoices, cheques for payment, the receipts, payments, checked the balance sheet, reviewed the budget, and signed the internal audit certificate. The Chairman asked that the payments for June 2005 be approved. A vote was taken.

The Chairman informed members that in the absence of the Clerk on holiday, no internal audit certificate would be presented to the Parish Council at the next meeting on 25 July. A list of payments would be presented to the Council for agreement as normal, and prepared by the Asst Clerk. The Clerk would carry out an internal audit at the end of July, which would be reported to the August meeting. The Chairman invited questions.

Decision: The payments for June 2005 were approved (see attached).

Clerk

98/05 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None.

99/05 YOUTH FORUM

The Chairman reported that Cllr Croucher had volunteered to be chairman of the Youth Forum. He asked for agreement from the Council for Cllr Croucher to be elected Chairman of the Youth Forum. A vote was taken.

Decision: Cllr Croucher was elected the Chairman of the Youth Forum.

Clerk

100/05 EXPENDITURE

The Motion: "This Council agrees to the purchase of a scaffold tower for the Parish Council at a cost of up to £1000, to be funded from Reserves."

Cllr Coyte proposed the motion, which was seconded by Cllr Atherden. Cllr Coyte explained the proposed use of the equipment, and how it was expected to be cost effective based on hire prices. The expected cost was £811. The purchase of ballast support weights if the tower was used over a height of four metres would be an additional cost but within the £1000. In answer to questions, Cllr Coyte said it was intended to store the tower at the LMH in the prop store; he proposed that wall racking should be installed. Cllr Coyte confirmed the equipment was light and portable. Training, Health and Safety issues, inspections, safety equipment (hard hats, belts), and equipment life expectancy were discussed further. A vote was taken.

Resolution: Agreed.

Clerk

101/05 REPORTS/REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

EHDC Larger Council Forum – 25 May 2005. Cllr Jordan reported that he had attended the meeting on 25 May. The key points from the meeting were:

Local contributions to the Community Initiative Fund. EHDC would not provide grants without a local contribution.

Devolution of Services. Favourable comments on new grass contract and chewing gum clearance.

Facilities - Gunns Farm Play area. Review being conducted of all facilities, with no plans to replace equipment at Gunns Farm. Questions had been raised about the condition of the ground at Gunns Farm.

Sponsorship of Roundabouts/Planting Schemes. No enthusiasm to support sponsorship signs for roundabouts. Liphook in Bloom signs had been favourably commented upon.

Street Lighting. Some larger councils in favour of becoming Street Lighting Authorities. Smaller councils felt that there was no financial benefit of assuming this role.

Insurance – 3rd party Claims. Zurich Municipal provided an advisory service and ROSPA inspections were available. Skate Parks considered to be in the highest risk category.

Affordable Housing. King George Vth site (155 units) of which 35% would normally be affordable housing.

Footpaths. Discussion on the state of footpaths in the District and the poor standard of pavement re-surfacing.

Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005. Discussion on how this would be enforced. It was felt that Parish and Town Councils were not going to undertake this duty, and there was difficulty in understanding how it would work in local communities. It was understood that there was no ability for Councils to retain the receipts under the provisions of the Act.

Questions and discussion followed on the Gunns Farm site, the state of the ground at the site, EHDC responsibilities, and what the Parish Council could do. It was proposed that the matter should be included on the agenda for the next Recreation Committee meeting. The provision of incentives for Parish Councils to become Street Lighting Authorities and the interest in larger councils taking on such responsibilities were discussed. It was understood that there were no incentives, and larger councils were prepared to pay to have better lighting.

The Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 was discussed, specifically the enforcement of the Act, and the issue of fines. The Clerk advised that there would be a formal consultation period. He understood that Parish Councils might be able to retain money from receipts. The problem of cars being left on grass verges, and the action that could be taken against owners by various authorities was discussed.

Decision: The Gunns Farm Site was to be included on the Recreation Committee agenda for 12 September 2005.

Clerk

102/05 EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC/PRESS

The Motion: “This Council resolves to exclude members of the public and the press for Items 13-15 in order to discuss confidential matters and those classified as exempt under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972.”

The Chairman proposed the motion, seconded by Cllr Jordan. A vote was taken.

Resolution: Agreed.

Cllr Jordan declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 15 (Minute 105/05) as a member of the Scout Association, and said he would leave the meeting for that item. Cllr Coyte declared a personal interest in Item 15 (Minute 105/05) as a supporter of the Scouts and Guides, and said he would remain at the meeting.

ITEMS CLASSIFIED AS EXEMPT

103/05 MATTERS ARISING FROM ITEMS CLASSIFIED AS EXEMPT FROM THE MEETING/MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 23 MAY 2005

None.

104/05 STAFF MATTERS

Staff Report. None.

Head Groundsman’s Salary. The Clerk, at the invitation of the Chairman and with the agreement of the Parish Council, reported on the proposed scales of pay for the Head Groundsman. The increase of three Spinal Column Points (SCP) rather than two, the Head Groundsman’s additional responsibilities, increase of SCP in relation to qualifications, and how the Head Groundsman was currently performing his role were all discussed. The Chairman proposed that the Head Groundsman’s salary should be increased by three SCP with effect 7 May 2005. A vote was taken.

Decisions: The Head Groundsman’s pay was increased by three SCP backdated to 7 May 2005.

Clerk

Cllr Jordan left the meeting.

105/05 AGREEMENT - SCOUTS & GUIDES

The Chairman referred to the exempt report provided by the Clerk. He said that neither Cllr Croucher nor Cllr Hope was available to make a report, but they would have proposed that the recommendations at paragraph 5 be accepted by the Parish Council. Cllr Mrs James had reported that she supported the recommendations.

The Chairman referred to paragraph 5,d of the report and the need to discuss the matter. The Chairman advised that any decision should be made at the August meeting of the Parish Council, when the situation would be reviewed. The delay in making a decision, financial aspects, and the way ahead were discussed further.

The Chairman sought agreement from the Parish Council to accept the recommendations and to review the situation at the August meeting of the Parish Council. A vote was taken.

Decision: The recommendations in the exempt report were agreed, subject to the decision required at paragraph 5, d being reviewed at the Parish Council meeting on 20 August 2005.

Clerk

Cllr Jordan re-joined the meeting.

106/05 URGENT BUSINESS – POLICE LEASE

The Chairman asked members if they would agree to discuss urgent business concerning the Police lease. A vote was taken and this was agreed. The Chairman referred to a legal letter that had been received after the agenda had been distributed, which was a long awaited response to a letter from the Parish Council solicitor. The Chairman explained the proposals contained within the letter, and these were discussed.

The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council should agree to the proposals subject to any further advice from the Parish Council solicitor. A vote was taken.

Decision: The proposals were accepted subject to any further advice from the solicitor.

Clerk

CONCLUSION - This concluded the business of the meeting at 9.10 pm.
Confirmed at the meeting held on 25 July 2005
Signed
Chairman