

## LANCING PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held on Wednesday 7 March 2018

**Councillors Present:** Cllr Gloria Eveleigh (Chair); Clive Burghard, Mick Clark, Lee Cowen, David Lambourne (Minutes 74 to part 81.6), Robin Monk, Geoff Patmore, Lionel Parsons, Emma Purnell, Gina Scotting and Jean Turner (Minutes 74 to 81.7).

**Officer:** Helen Plant, Clerk.

**In attendance:** One member of the public.

**74. Apologies**

Apologies had been received, and with the reasons outlined, were accepted from Cllrs Albury, Bradley, Bridges and Haywood.

**75. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**76. Public Forum & Questions**

None.

**77. To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 January 2018**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2018 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

**78. Grouped Items:-**

**Resolved** – That the following draft Committee Minutes and Working Group Notes be received:-

- (1) Amenities & Environment Committee – 17 January 2018
- (2) Litter Campaign Working Group – 18 January 2018
- (3) Finance & General Purposes Committee – 24 January 2018
- (4) Planning Committee Meeting – 24 January 2018
- (5) Monks Rec Improvement Project Working Group – 30 January 2018
- (6) Litter Campaign Working Group – 8 February 2018
- (7) Keep Lancing Safe – 9 February 2018
- (8) Lancing Vision Group – 16 February 2018
- (9) Planning Committee – 21 February 2018
- (10) Monks Rec Improvement Project Working Group – 27 February 2018

**79. Recommendations from Committees & Working Groups**

**79.1** It was reported that the Amenities & Environment Committee had agreed to a request from Showtime Amusements, organiser of the Beach Green fireworks event, to hold a family fun fair at Monks Recreation ground in May (Committee Minute 34.13/Jan/17 refers). Advance Notices would be delivered to local residents in case of any concerns.

The Committee were recommending that the income received from this event, i.e. 10% of the profits, be specifically earmarked towards the Monks Rec Improvement Project fund.

**Resolved** – That the income received from Showtime Amusements from the Monks Rec family fun fair event be specifically earmarked towards the Monks Rec Improvement Project fund.

## **80. Chair's Report**

### **80.1 Litter Campaign**

The Chair reminded Members that the launch event for the Council's Litter Campaign was 25 March 2018 between 10am and 12pm. Seaside School pupils had created posters to add to the advertising and attempts were being made as to whether the litter picked from Beach Green and the beach could be separated to establish how bad the problem was for each area.

**Resolved** – That all Councillors endeavor to attend the Litter Campaign launch event.

### **80.2 Councillor Resignation**

The Chair announced that Cllr James Butcher had resigned from his role as a Councillor for Churchill Ward.

The Clerk advised that the resignation had created a casual vacancy and outlined the process to fill it, including that the vacancy needed to be advertised and should the requisite number of signatories be received, then a bye-election would be called.

Members agreed to thank Mr Butcher for all he had done for the Parish Council and that his resignation was a sad loss for Lancing Parish Council.

## **81. Clerk's Report**

### **81.1 Parish Council Newsletter**

It was confirmed that the last edition of the Parish Council's Newsletter for 2017/18 was in the process of being delivered to all parish households and the E-newsletter was circulated on 1 March.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

### **81.2 AVA Information**

The latest figures for January and February 2018 were provided, including that there had been 1 volunteer enquiry, 6 food bank donations, 13 food bank collections and 13 general enquiries.

Members expressed particular interest in respect of the food bank figures. Whilst it was acknowledged that the Council was not able to directly influence the problem, a fuller picture for the area was requested.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted.

(b) That Lancing and Sompting Churches Food Bank be requested to supply figures in respect of donations and collections.

### **81.3 Proposed Enforcement Patrols for Dog Fouling and Littering Offences**

Pursuant to Council minute 71/Jan/18, it was confirmed that the necessary permissions were still in the process of being sought from ADC so that the Parish Council could introduce the proposed enforcement scheme for its own areas of land. Concerns were expressed in respect of the length of time being taken for this matter to be concluded.

It was noted that the question of whether the Parish Council could impose its own Public Space Protection Orders had been raised at a Litter Campaign Working Group meeting, i.e. to avoid district council involvement, but legislation did not grant local councils that power.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted.

(b) That all Parish Councillor's who also act as District Councillor's exert pressure on Adur District Council to conclude the matter.

#### **81.4 Lancing Parish Council Surgeries**

Cllr Cowen had suggested the Council regularly hired a stall at the Village Market to be used for consultation events, distributing leaflets etc. and Parish Surgeries, i.e. once a month at the market and once a month at the Library. This would be another method of communicating with the community and would complement the Council's Communication Strategy at the small cost of £153 for 12 stalls per annum. It was noted that the cost could be met from the Events budget.

Cllr Eveleigh advised that the new Parish Surgery rota would be circulated to Members shortly.

**Resolved** – That the Council agrees to hold Parish Surgeries once a month at the Village Market from April 2018 with the stall hire cost being met from the 2018/19 Events budget.

#### **81.5 Improving Communications between Councillors and associated Conduct**

The Council's recently approved Code of Conduct had been previously circulated, and Members were requested to familiarise themselves with the contents of this document for when they were acting in their capacity as a Councillor of Lancing Parish Council. There were also guidelines in the Communication Policy and Strategy (also circulated) as to how Members should carry out internal communications. However, it was stressed that there were no guidelines to provide Members with advice for when they acted in a personal capacity, but a decent standard of manners was the least that could be expected. It was noted that any problems arising from members acting in a personal capacity was outside of the Council's remit.

Cllr Purnell considered that general email correspondence between Members had improved and hoped that a careful and professional basis would continue. Cllr Eveleigh stressed that emails between Members should be treated confidentially and not divulged to others outside of the Council.

An associated in-house training session had been arranged for 18 April 2018, between 7-9pm. All Members were expected to attend.

**Resolved** – That all Members endeavour to attend the in-house training session on 18 April 2018.

#### **81.6 Lancing Skatepark Action Plan – report by Tim Loughton MP**

It was reported that Tim Loughton, MP for East Worthing and Shoreham, had publicised details of an action plan for the skatepark at Beach Green, which had been perceived to be the root cause of some antisocial behaviour (ASB) incidents.

Whilst Mr Loughton had sent all Lancing Parish Councillors a summary of his findings, it was considered disappointing that those not using email had had to wait 4-weeks for a copy after those who had received it by email. It was noted that the Clerk had also not received a copy, but the Chair had made the Clerk aware of the information to allow the matter to be discussed at this Council meeting.

It was acknowledged that ASB had been experienced on Beach Green, as well as elsewhere in Lancing. The multi-partnership group led by the Parish Council, Keep Lancing Safe, had discussed issues and how they might be tackled, information was forwarded to the Police Joint Action Group and the Police had also held a Street Briefings at both sites for the public to raise any concerns directly to them.

Most Members considered that the MP's actions were wrong and undermined the Parish Council and its work on the matter, but others considered this a misperception.

It was also considered perplexing that there were a number of statements in the action plan that were not related to antisocial behaviour, and also that a number of initiatives already ongoing appeared to have been overlooked

It was noted that Mr Loughton was happy to discuss the outlined proposals with the Parish Council and others who were prepared to take them forward constructively. It is therefore recommended that a suitable reply to each point was determined so the Clerk could write to Mr Loughton accordingly.

Mr Loughton's Action Plan was provided in detail, along with further information to aid Members discussion on each point.

**Resolved** – That the following responses to each point in the action plan be agreed and Mr Loughton MP be advised accordingly:-

a) *Someone needs to take ownership of the running of the skatepark, who acts as a known and trusted overseer of activity in and around it and is clearly plugged into Adur and Lancing Councils, Police, Beach Patrol and The Perch. To act as a go-between with the skaters and various local agencies and would report more serious incidents and information direct to the Police.*

*Shoreham skatepark has an adult skateboarder who has informally taken on this role and is trusted by the skaters and authorities alike. A similar individual involved with skating has come forward at Lancing and is ready to help. He needs to work with a group of young skaters to form a 'management group' and communicate to the wider user-group.*

It was agreed that this individual should be applauded for volunteering to take on this role. However, if the Parish Council were to officially endorse this role, it would have to satisfy itself that the individual was appropriate to cover any safeguarding concerns and therefore over complicating the role. The Parish Council would not be taking this suggestion further.

b) *A Lancing Skatepark Facebook page has now been set up by one of the skaters who attended the closed meeting Mr Loughton arranged at The Perch. A simple App could now be developed.*

It was not clear what the App aimed to achieve, whether there was a cost involved to develop it or who would pay for it, so further clarification was sought on this point.

*c) Discussions with the skaters confirmed widespread support for the installation of CCTV to monitor the skatepark and wider area.*

It was acknowledged that this was possible, but due to the strict rules and regulations and licence requirements to adhere to for CCTV in public areas and associated costs being known to be quite expensive, this suggestion was not going to be progressed by the Parish Council at this time.

*d) Skaters also favour lighting which could be run off lighting on the promenade if LPC take forward the initial proposals to light the prom to help combat ASB. This would have to be low level and directional to avoid complaints about light pollution from nearby residents and set to turn off at a certain time.*

Again, it was acknowledged that this was possible if funding could be sourced to complete the Promenade lighting project for the Beach Green section once a feasibility study had been carried out. Local residents would need to be consulted to establish a preferred turn-off time. The Parish Council recognised that lighting an area decreased ASB, so this would be considered during the progression of the Promenade lighting project.

*e) Skatepark users would also like to see some basic concrete surfaces around the skating area rather than the muddy patches at present. The potential coordinator has offered to organise a community day to build this to minimise expense whilst any Rampion funds should be approached for more substantial enhancement funding to local councils.*

The Parish Council were already aware of this issue; rubber matting had been put down on the non-skate areas to help with some of the muddy patches (grass should grow through this matting). However, Wheelscape, the company that designed and installed the skatepark, had gone into receivership, so would not be able to carry out this work. Therefore, the Clerk was currently seeking suitable companies and associated costs.

*f) Requests for a shelter on the site were strongly contradicted by experts at other skateparks as they act as a focus for ASB and vandalism.*

This was a well-known opinion that the Parish Council agreed with, but it was unclear why this point was in the Action Plan as the Parish Council had never proposed the installation of a shelter.

*g) There needs to be a noticeboard with an agreed code of conduct and reporting contact numbers.*

There were already two large noticeboards at each entrance to the site describing the conditions of use and important contact details so again, it was unclear why this point was in the Action Plan.

*h) In early spring, a competition day event should be established to bring the wider skating community together to help cement ownership of the facility. This would need to involve separate categories to include both scooters and skateboards. The Perch and other interested parties have offered, in principle, to sponsor such an event and would be*

*prepared to do much more if there is evidence of improved behaviour and safety on Beach Green.*

Such an event was already anticipated, as publicised in the Parish Council's Autumn 2017 Newsletter, as the opening event held in July had to be cut short due to the terrible weather. Some prizes were kept back to contribute towards a future event, likely to be held in the summer, but without the experienced help of the Wheelscape staff, further advice and involvement was being sought from the UK Skateboard Association and Skateboard England. Once details of an event were finalised, it would be advertised accordingly.

*i) Police should be encouraged to make regular patrols at busy times and provide site managers with a hotline for reporting ASB and criminal behaviour. There were strong complaints that Police were not following up leads about trouble makers with several cases of where clear identities had been provided yet the complainants heard nothing further. Police communication, visibility and feedback needs to be much better and this should include an informal group of parents and residents who have offered to be 'eyes and ears' on Beach Green. Prosecutions need to be pursued and publicised to show they are serious.*

It was not clear how the Parish Council was expected to take this point forward, if at all. However, it should be noted that the Parish Council would continue to work with the Police to address local issues through the work of Keep Lancing Safe, reporting to the Police's Joint Action Group, and working with other community organisations to help set up the provision of activities for young people - Lancing Parish Youth Council was aiming to set up a weekly internet cafe from 19 April 2018 at the Find it Out Centre, Penhill Road. The Police had also confirmed that ASB in the area had decreased recently and readily monitored areas when needed.

Notwithstanding, the Parish Council requested that as the areas MP, Mr Loughton should exert pressure on the Government to increase Police funding to enable enhanced resources.

*j) Electric Storm Youth would like to play an enhanced role if they can recruit a youth worker and Worthing Youth Council have also helped through Shirley Robinson-Viney.*

The Parish Council had an existing good relationship with ESY and this was expected to continue. The Parish Council were aware that the former detached youth worker initially spent time at Monks recreation ground and when the ASB moved to Beach Green, their work continued in that area. It was known that once ESY had recruited their new detached youth worker, their work would continue where needed.

Shirley Robinson-Viney had previously extended support to the Parish Council, e.g. with the set up of Lancing Parish Youth Council, but it was understood Shirley was looking to retire imminently.

*k) Local schools especially Sir Robert Woodward Academy need to be involved in educating their pupils who use the skatepark. Various organisations have also approached me with offers of help including 'Surf solace' who work with kids on water safety issues and who want to extend and adapt their activities to Lancing. There is clearly a lot of goodwill to make sure this facility succeeds, and Lancing Beach Green continues to be Lancing's 'jewel in the crown'.*

The Parish Council agreed with this sentiment and would be grateful if the details of those organisations who were willing to extend their work in Lancing could be forwarded to the Clerk to carry out initial investigations as to how the Parish Council could work with them.

Lancing Parish Youth Council was currently working with the Academy towards a youth councillor recruitment drive.

The Parish Council also noted that a recent meeting of Lancing Parish Youth Council had highlighted that there were a number of activities/groups/drop in sessions available to young people in the Lancing area contrary to the overall perception. LPYC were going to collate the details of those with a view to advertising them all on social media.

It was hoped that this response assured Mr Loughton that the Parish Council was being pro-active and trusted he recognised the good work that was being carried out.

#### **81.7 Sompting Parish Neighbourhood Plan – Consultation**

It was reported that Sompting Parish Council, as the qualifying body, had prepared a neighbourhood development plan, entitled 'Sompting Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2031' for their parish with the help of the local community. The plan set out a vision for the future of the parish and planning policies which will be used to determine planning applications locally and had been published for consultation by Adur District Council.

As the adjoining parish, this Council was a consultee and could make representations as to whether it considered the plan had met basic conditions, which were outlined.

**Resolved** – That the Sompting Parish Neighbourhood Plan be supported.

#### **82. Other Matters:-**

##### **82.1 Lancing Parish Youth Council**

The Minutes of LPYC's meetings on 29 November and 20 December 2017 had been circulated for Member's information.

Cllr Eveleigh reported that LPYC had been successful in their grant application submission to West Sussex County Council towards the costs of a junior climbing wall for Monks Recreation Ground and that Sir Robert Woodard Academy were working with LPYC on a recruitment campaign.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

##### **82.2 Lancing Vision Group**

Cllr Eveleigh advised that the group had reviewed the Village Consultation results and an associated action plan was being composed before the document was published in the public domain.

**Resolved** - That the information be noted.

##### **82.3 Keep Lancing Safe**

Cllr Eveleigh advised that attempts were being made to arrange additional youth activities and the Police were dealing with recent metal thefts from gardens.

**Resolved** - That the information be noted.

#### **82.4 New Monks Farm Development – Amended Plans & further information to the Environmental Statement ([AWDM/0961/17](#))**

Pursuant to Council Minute 39.4/Sept/17, it was reported that amended plans and further information to the Environmental Statement had been received in respect of the following planning application:-

Hybrid planning application seeking (1) Full planning permission for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of 249 dwellings with temporary access via Grinstead Lane, a Country Park, relocation and extension of the Withy Patch Gypsy and Traveller site, permanent access via a new roundabout on the A27, landscaping, and other associated infrastructure (including pumping facility at the River Adur); (2) Outline planning permission (with only landscaping reserved) for a non-food retail store (Use Class A1); and (3) Outline planning permission (with all matters reserved other than access) for the erection of a further 351 dwellings, community hub, primary school, and landscaping.

**Resolved** – That it be considered that the amended plans and further information to the Environment Statement do not sufficiently address the concerns of the Parish Council and the Parish Council continues to object to the proposed development on New Monks Farm on the grounds of -

- 1) Severe Flood risk to third parties residing around the Lancing Brooks Flood Plain.
- 2) Withy Patch residents are under threat of unsuitable relocation; the Parish Council calls upon West Sussex County Council to reinstate their home and leave the residents in situ.
- 3) A sewerage system that will overwhelm the existing sewage system due to the impact of 600 houses and Ikea and the Football Academy discharging into an antiquated broken sewage system creating floods and pollution to surrounding areas.
- 4) The surface water drainage system of Archimedes screws into the river Adur is experimental and unproven, the risks of failure would be catastrophic.
- 5) Groundwater flows are, by and large, ignored on an area that has a 75% risk of groundwater flooding across the entire flood plain. Groundwater cannot be pumped.
- 6) The A27 and the A259 are already inadequate and severely congested, the impact of 2 million visits a year visiting Ikea and the impact of 600+ cars from the development will create gridlock to Lancing and Shoreham.
- 7) Air pollution is currently over the statutory limits and would increase dramatically posing severe health risks to residents, children and families.
- 8) New Monks Farm developers have offered a comparison as Cardiff Ikea to promote the proposed NMF Ikea. The Parish Council has found this to be a totally incomparable and incorrect, a misleading attempt at convincing Lancing residents of the impact on Lancing traffic flows relating to Ikea.
- 9) In terms of affordable homes, which there are not, there will be no benefit to Lancing residents in need i.e. Homeless, disabled.
- 10) The remainder of the proposed houses, some on private roads and adopted roads, will be beyond the reach of Lancing young families, due to the high costs of purchase and ground maintenance costs.
- 11) The insertion of 2 more football pitches will have a negative impact on the environment destroying ecology and wildlife and pose further flood risk to the surrounding areas.
- 12) The Airport remains under threat, this is unacceptable and the Parish Council query's how and why this has been allowed to deteriorate to this position, the proposed development of 25,000 sq metres on flood plain further increase flood risk.
- 13) The infrastructure proposals i.e. school, GP surgery etc are woefully inadequate and unacceptable, Adur is already over capacity and overstretched in terms of schooling and

healthcare, the additional pressure on statutory provision is unacceptable also given the 100s of houses currently being constructed and proposed in Shoreham.

14) The proposed area of development will have a dramatic detrimental effect on the existing ecology conservation and preservation of the existing wildlife inhabiting and visiting this strategic area.

15) The proposed development will have a profound negative, irreparable impact on Lancing village and residents for the foreseeable future.

**83. Representatives on Outside Bodies**

None.

**84. Future Agenda Items**

None.

**85. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**86. Land at Monks Recreation Ground**

Pursuant to Council Minute 73/Jan/18, a report to consider Sussex County Football Association's response to the Parish Council's proposed rental increase to kick start rental negotiations.

It was again stressed that the current lease stated that the rent agreed between the Council and the Association should be the current market rental value and that the surveyor was named in the lease as the expert and had the final say on the rental matter. The Clerk maintained the recommendation that the Surveyors advice should be agreed with, but the majority of Members favoured a further negotiation with reasons stated.

**Resolved** - That Sussex County Football Association be advised of the revised rental amount proposal for the reasons stated.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.