

Luddesdown Parish Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Luddesdown Parish Council held on Monday 16 January 2023 at 7:30pm in Luddesdown Village Hall

Members Present: Cllr N Clark
Cllr A Moorhouse
Cllr M Newnes
Cllr J Rossouw

In Attendance: S Fishenden – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Cllr T Rice – Borough Councillor
PCSO K Lowe (*arrived at 8:20pm and left at 8:40pm*)
PCSO S Balman (*arrived at 8:20pm and left at 8:40pm*)
Four members of the public

Item 1: Apologies for Absence: To receive and approve apologies

F.C. 94 Apologies were received and approved from Cllr Mileson (unwell)

Item 2: Declarations of Members' Interests: To receive declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests for this meeting

F.C. 95 Cllr Rossouw declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application **20221366 – Haydown** due to it being a property near to his own.

Item 3: To approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting: 21.11.22

F.C. 96 The minutes of the meeting held on 21.11.22 were approved.
PROPOSED: Cllr Newnes. SECONDED: Cllr Moorhouse. All in favour.

Item 4: Public Session & Reports

4.1 Public Session

F.C. 97 Representatives from Luddesdown Vineyard were present and explained the new access track off Cutters Ridge Road was done so they could restart the compost site which requires access for lorries to deliver 1000 tonnes of compost. This would then be used to provide organic fuel for the vineyards they own. The access track had been created under Permitted Development rights.

They also confirmed they were piloting the grazing of sheep amongst the vines from November to March. They had invested in 17km of new secure fencing. The representatives agreed to explore providing additional signage so dog walkers were aware of the sheep grazing. Finally they were providing six bat and owl houses across the site; three in Upper bush and three in Luddesdown.

4.2 Borough Councillors, County Councillor and PCSO Reports

F.C. 98 Cllr T Rice reminded the Parish Council to register as an Interested Party for the Lower Thames Crossing Planning Inspectorate examination.

PCSO's K Lowe and S Balman promoted the new My Community Voice system which is a two-way communication tool with Kent Police. All residents were encouraged to sign up to it.

They reported that their current resources had gone from 17 to 6 PCSO's but following the Neighbourhood Policing Review a named police officer would be assigned to each ward. The Rural Taskforce would be remaining and there would be teams of four PCSO's working in 'hotspot teams'.

Item 5: Financial Matters

5.1 Schedule of Payments: To approve the payments awaiting authorisation in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.2

F.C. 99 The schedule of payments up to 16.01.23 were approved. The payments list will be attached as an appendix to these minutes.

PROPOSED: Cllr Newnes. SECONDED: Cllr Moorhouse. All in favour.

5.2 Receipts & Payments Report: To receive the Receipts & Payments report as of 09.01.23

F.C. 100 The receipts and payments report up to 09.01.23 was noted.

5.3 Bank Statement: To receive the bank statement as of 09.01.23

F.C. 101 The Unity Bank statement up to 09.01.23 was noted.

Item 6: Planning

6.1 Planning Applications: To consider any applications received

F.C. 102 **20221366 – Haydown, Buckland Road, Luddesdown, Gravesend, Kent, DA13 0XF**

Removal of existing conservatory and part of existing building. Front, rear and side single storey extensions. External cladding, window replacement and removal of existing back roof with replacement of a green roof with internal alterations and external alterations; fenestration, decking and soft landscaping.

The Council will query why this application is being considered given there is an existing enforcement issue ongoing. In addition we would comment on the significant change to the external appearance and ask for a condition to be applied for materials used to be in keeping with the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

20221284 – 12 Hays Mead, Henley Street, Luddesdown, Gravesend, Kent, DA13 0XD

Removal of garage and conservatory and erection of a two-storey side extension

The Council would raise no objection to this application.

22/01982/FL – Badgells Wood Camping, White Horse Road, Meopham, Gravesend, Kent, DA13 0UF

Replacement of existing camp site reception and shop facilities with a new site reception hub; replacement of site manager's mobile home with a permanent dwelling house; erection of a timber dining canopy structure; erection of new ablution block and upgrading of existing facilities, erection

of open sided education space shelter; installation of six timber holiday cabins; associated alterations to parking facilities and services infrastructure and The variation of Conditions 1 and 3 Of TM/17/00760/FL to enable all year round occupation of the new site manager's house and use of reception hub and timber holiday cabins all year round (camping to remain seasonal)

This decision was being considered by TMBC and Birling Parish Council as it only falls partially within Luddesdown parish. The Clerk would write to TMBC to enquire why we weren't consulted and re-iterate the comments set out in the Kent Downs AONB Unit response and highlight the effect of traffic on Luddesdown.

6.2 Planning Decisions: To note any decisions received

F.C. 103 There were no decisions received.

6.3 Planning Enforcements: To receive any enforcement updates

F.C. 104 There were no enforcement updates to note.

Item 7: Meeting Schedule for 2023-24: To agree the meeting schedule for the 2023-24 council year

F.C. 105 The meeting schedule for the 2023-2024 financial year was approved. It will be uploaded to the Parish Council website.

PROPOSED: Cllr Newnes. SECONDED: Cllr Rossouw. All in favour.

Item 8: Recruiting and Training New Councillors: To consider arrangements for the May 2023 elections

F.C. 106 Cllr Clark confirmed he would be stepping down at the May 2023 after eight years. Cllr Moorhouse confirmed she would also be stepping down too. Both councillors were thanked for their service.

It was agreed to seek interested people to consider standing for election to replace the two departing councillors. Cllr Newnes would follow-up with a couple of residents he thought might be suitable.

The Clerk would investigate alternative training courses to the KALC 'Dynamic Councillor course'

Item 9: Highways Improvement Plan: To receive an update on progress of the Highways Improvement Plan

F.C. 107 This item was deferred until the next meeting due to Cllr Mileson's absence.

Item 10: Lower Thames Crossing: To receive an update on Lower Thames Crossing

F.C. 108 The Parish Council would register as an Interested Party as part of the Development Consent Order examination process. The Clerk would follow up with LTC about possible community funding for projects.

Item 11: Clerk's Report: To receive a report from the Clerk

F.C. 109 There was nothing to report.

Item 12: Parish Council Representatives on External Bodies: To receive reports from Councillors/the Clerk representing the Parish Council at KALC, Police Liaison, Rights-of-Way and any other relevant bodies

F.C. 110 The Parish Chairs meeting was being held on 18 Jan 2023; Cllr Moorhouse would circulate the minutes when they are received.

Cllr Clark had attended the latest CPRE meeting; they had been discussing the water supply within the area, two new reservoirs are needing to be built by Southern Water. They are currently 80% dependant on aquifers which replenish every year.

Cllr Clark also reported on Luddesdown Rights of Way Group who were continuing to operate. They do not require any grant funding.

Item 13: Chairman's Announcements

F.C. 111 There were no further announcements.

The meeting closed at 9:20pm